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THE
LIFE
OF
HER GRACE,
SARAH,

Churchill.
LATE

DUCHESS DOWAGER of *Marlborough*,

To which are Annex'd,

Remarks on Her Grace's Last Will.

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THE
L I F E
OF HER GRACE
S A R A H, *Churc*

Late Duchess Dowager of *Marlborough*.



WHEN Persons of distinguish'd a Character, and so exalted a Rank, as SARAH, the Duchess Dowager of *Marlborough*, depart this World, it is a Kind of Tribute we owe their Memory, and which the Publick expects, to endeavour to transmit some Account of them down to Posterity; in Compliance, therefore, not only with these Motives, but in Regard to Truth, and to common Justice, we shall present our Readers with the following Sheets, wherein we shall take Care, as far as lies in our Power, not to insert any Thing, which shall not be equally distant from Falsehood, and Partiality. And this we think ourselves the more bound to do, with Respect to

this illustrious Lady, because we believe, there hardly ever was One, in her high Station; who has been treated with more Indecency, Inhumanity, and Virulence; or who has been the Object of more Obloquy, and Scurrility, and that upon such slender Grounds, for some Ages; nay, we much question whether one Instance can be produc'd, at least from the History of these Kingdoms, of the similar Treatment of any Person of her Sex and Quality, upon so little Foundation: To such a Height did Party Rage and Malice carry some People, without any Regard to Verity, or common Decency.

IN Effect, not content with blackening her Grace herself, with the most bitter Calumnies and Invectives, they have proceeded so far, as to vent their Scandals upon her whole Family, whom they have represented in the most odious Colours; and have rak'd even into the Ashes of the Dead, with the mean and dishonest View, of wounding her through their Sides. Our Readers, therefore, if they have perus'd only these malignant Libels, many of which the ingenuous Author of the *Other Side of the Question*, has taken Care to revive, and adopt into that Performance, they will undoubtedly be surpriz'd, at seeing her Grace here exhibited, in a very different Light, and imagine we have greatly flatter'd her; in order, however, to prevent this Mistake, we will not advance any Thing, which we will not give probable Reasons, or, at least, strong Presumptions, for our believing well grounded.

To begin then, with her Extraction, notwithstanding the infamous Falshoods, advanc'd by the candid and modest Author of the *Atalantis*,

was him the handsomest Gentleman about the Court, and very much in the good Graces of the Duke of *York*, next Heir to the Crown.

NOTHING, therefore, could more gratefully flatter, the Vanity, or Inclinations, of the blooming Fair-One, than the triumphing over so formidable a Rival, and gaining so distinguish'd, so desirable, and accomplish'd an Adorer; add to this, that the Match was not at all to her Disadvantage, the Colonel being then in a fair Way of making his Fortune; though it can't be said, indeed, there was any Prospect, of his rising to that Height, at which he afterwards deservedly arriv'd. It may easily be judg'd, then, that though the Lady wanted neither personal Charms nor Merit no more than the Colonel, but was generally acknowledg'd, to be a Star of the first Magnitude, even in that shining Court, that he did not meet with any great Obstacles in his Addresses; but having sigh'd out the usual Time, for Form and Decency's Sake, and the Consent of the Duke and Duchess of *York* being obtain'd, the Nuptials were celebrated to their mutual Satisfaction; not long after which, the Princess *Anne* being married to the Prince of *Denmark*, her Grace, then Lady *Churchill*, at her Highness's earnest Request, was made one of the Ladies of her Bedchamber, as was before observ'd.

IN this new Station, she did not continue long, before King *Charles II.* dying, and the Earl of *Clarendon*, in Consideration of his Affinity to the Successor by Marriage, being soon after appointed Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, whither the Countess, was to accompany him, the Place of Groom of the Stole to her High-

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lantis, who was the *H-yw--'d* of those Days, and would not at all scruple Romancing a little, provided it would either embellish her Works, or serve her present Purpose, it is a well known and incontestable Truth, that she was descended of a good Family in the County of *Hertford*, and that her Father, *Richard Jenyns, Esq;* of *Sandridge*, near the Borough of *St. Albans*, was posses'd of a handsome Estate in that Neighbourhood; which her Grace, who with her Sister, the late Duchess of *Tyrconnel*, was Coheiress thereto, we are assur'd, enjoy'd to her Death; and by Virtue of which she had Interest enough to put in whoever she pleas'd Representative of that Borough; which she always took Care to exert, in Favour of Those, who were real Friends to their Country; but of that more hereafter, in its proper Place.

At what Time precisely, the Duchess of *Marlborough* came to Court, we cannot directly say, neither indeed is it at all material; only, we are assur'd, she was introduc'd there very young, and that so powerfully, and with so fair a Reputation, that she was soon preferr'd to be one of the Maids of Honour to the Duchess of *York*; which Circumstance alone, one would think, to any one of common Sense, would be a sufficient Refutation, of all that Scandal and Defamation, contain'd in the *New Atalantis*: For, can any one imagine, had her Mother, who is there represented not only as an *Old Sorceress*, but, as if that was not sufficient, as the *worst of Bawds* also, been a Woman of so abominable a Character, that either the Duchess of *York*, (whose Honour we never heard call'd in Question, whatever other Failings she

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might have,) would have suffer'd the Daughter of such a one to approach her, or that the Duke would have permitted her, to have been first about his Confort, and afterwards about his Daughter, the Princess of *Denmark*, as one of the Ladies of her Bedchamber? Nay, was it at all likely, had this been the Case, that the Princess herself, who is by every one allow'd to have been an exemplary Pattern of Virtue, should not only have accepted her as one of her Attendants, but should have singled her out, to live with her, upon the Foot of a Confidante and Friend, as undoubtedly she did, for many Years?

Thus much we think sufficient to premise, at this Time, upon this Head; and that only to remove what Prejudices, our Readers may have imbib'd against her Grace, from the abovemention'd and other Libels, and prepare them to receive a more favourable Impression of her; we shall now return from whence we have digres'd.

WHILST her Grace continu'd in the Post, of Maid of Honour to the Duchess of *York*, her illustrious Confort, the Duke of *Marlborough*, then Colonel *Churchill*, cast his Eyes on her to make her the Lady of his Affections, and his Partner for Life. This Conquest was the more remarkable, and undoubtedly the more agreeable to the young Charmer, as the Court then abounded with celebrated Beauties; and as the Colonel was known to have been the Favourite of the Duchess of *Cleveland*, who was not only one of the Royal Mistresses, but was generally allow'd for Beauty to bear away the Bell from all the Rest; besides which, he was

was him the handsomest Gentleman about the Court, and very much in the good Graces of the Duke of *York*, next Heir to the Crown.

NOTHING, therefore, could more gratefully flatter, the Vanity, or Inclinations, of the blooming Fair-One, than the triumphing over so formidable a Rival, and gaining so distinguish'd, so desirable, and accomplish'd an Adorer; add to this, that the Match was not at all to her Disadvantage, the Colonel being then in a fair Way of making his Fortune; though it can't be said, indeed, there was any Prospect, of his rising to that Height, at which he afterwards deservedly arriv'd. It may easily be judg'd, then, that though the Lady wanted neither personal Charms nor Merit no more than the Colonel, but was generally acknowledg'd, to be a Star of the first Magnitude, even in that shining Court, that he did not meet with any great Obstacles in his Addresses; but having sigh'd out the usual Time, for Form and Decency's Sake, and the Consent of the Duke and Duchess of *York* being obtain'd, the Nuptials were celebrated to their mutual Satisfaction; not long after which, the Princess *Anne* being married to the Prince of *Denmark*, her Grace, then Lady *Churchill*, at her Highness's earnest Request, was made one of the Ladies of her Bedchamber, as was before observ'd.

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ness became vacant, which she immediately conferr'd upon the Lady *Churchill*, and seem'd highly pleas'd at that Opportunity, of shewing the sincere Value she had for her.

We do not find any Thing remarkable happen'd to her in this Post, till about the Time of the *Revolution*; when, upon King *James's* going down to *Salisbury*, to his Army, to oppose the Prince of *Orange*, and being deserted there by the Prince of *Denmark*, the Princess, his Consort, in a great Fright, declar'd to Lady *Churchill*, "that, rather than see her Father, " who was on his Return to *London*, she would "jump out at the Window;" accordingly, it is well known, the Princess betook her self to Flight precipitately, under the Conduct of Dr. *Compton*, then Bishop of *London*, and repair'd with all Speed to *Nottingham*.

THIS Step of her Highness, in forsaking her Father, and one, (who batting his Bigotry to the *Romish* Religion, and his Desire to make her a Convert thereto, though not by harsh Means) had not been the worst of Parents, as the Ascendant of Lady *Churchill* over her was well known, was imputed to that Lady's Influence; her Grace, however, in her *Conduct*, which has drawn down such a Deluge of Scurility, Falshood, and Defamation, upon her, has accounted for this in a quite different Manner; and that with such an Appearance of Truth, that unless we had the Gift of discerning Spirits, and looking into the Hearts of Men, which, we are assur'd, the ALMIGHTY hath reserv'd to himself; or, unless we had convincing Evidence to the contrary, which we have

we have not, we are bound in *common Justice*, and *Humanity*, to give Credit thereto.

W H A T her Grace has been pleas'd to affirm, upon this Head, is; That the Flight of her Highness was a Thing wholly *sudden* and *unconcerted*; and that she had no farther Share therein, than in obeying the Orders of her Mistress; in going from her to the Bishop of *London*; in concerting the Manner of it with him; and in accompanying her therein. Now, who can pretend to aver positively what her Grace advances here is false? Or, what Evidence is there to the contrary? And yet, upon the bare Presumption, that the Prince of *Denmark*, and the Lord *Churchill*, who attended the King to the Army, would not take such a Step, as going over to the Prince of *Orange*, without the Privity of their respective Consorts, the Author of the *Other Side of the Question* treats this as little better than a *direct and palpable Lye*; but this is no Wonder, since, in divers other Places, he attacks her with a Freedom, no ways becoming an anonymous Writer, to a Person of such Distinction.

I T might have been hop'd, however, he would have been a fair Adversary, and would not have advanc'd any Thing as Fact, he could not directly prove; and yet we find him, p. 17. affirming, that it is asserted by *Burnet*, that Admiral *Russel* carried Messages between the Prince of *Orange* and Lord *Churchill*, when upon the strictest Examination, we cannot find any such Assertion of that Bishop's. His Lordship indeed says, Lord *Churchill* was for the Prince of *Orange*'s coming over, but that does not by any Means imply, that Messages pass'd

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between the one and the other; neither, could this be prov'd, is it to be inferr'd from thence, that he either promis'd, or resolv'd to go over to his Highness, *at all Events.*

AND this brings us to consider, whether it is altogether so improbable, that Prince *George*, and his Lordship, should desert the King, without previously informing their respective Comforts thereof, or whether, on the contrary, it is not rather highly probable.

IN order to form a right Judgment of this, let it first be consider'd, that the abandoning the King, and going over to the Prince, was no less than *High Treason*, both in the one and the other; and that their Lives thereby became forfeited, if they fell again into the King's Power; as also, that his Majesty had shewn, by his Treatment of the Duke of *Monmouth*, what they were to expect, should he get them once more into his Hands: Again, let it be consider'd, that, though they might probably have resolv'd to act as they did, if a fair Opportunity offer'd for them to get off, yet that a Hundred Circumstances might have happen'd, which might have render'd it very hazardous, if not impracticable; in which Case, it is not to be believ'd, that either Prince *George*, or the Lord *Churchill*, who though both very brave, were Men of great Prudence, and Sedateness, would have put all to the Risque; it was, therefore, not possible, they should have acquainted their respective Spouses with a Resolution, that depended upon so many Contingencies.

IT is not improbable, indeed, they might have told them, they would go over to the Prince, if they could securely, and that in such Case

Case they were to provide for their own Safety, as soon as possible; but this is by no Means an Argument, that either the Manner, or the Time, of the Princess's Flight, was not *sudden* and *unconcerted*; on the contrary, the before-mention'd Declaration of her Highness, on receiving News of the Prince's being gone, *That she would leap out at the Window, sooner than face her Father* (which very Expression is confirm'd by Bishop *Burnet*) shews evidently, that either she did not expect him to go off so soon, or that she was not appriz'd of the Design at all; which is more than sufficient to justify her Grace, in saying, that the Flight of the Princess was *sudden* and *unconcerted*.

IT is needless to remind our Readers, that the Consequence of the King's being thus deserted, not only by the Prince of *Denmark*, and Lord *Churchill*, but by the main Body of the Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy, was his forsaking the Kingdom, and the settling the Crown by Parliament, on the Prince and Princess of *Orange*. But, as by this Settlement the Prince was to enjoy the Crown for Life, in Case of his surviving the Princess, and as this would be a manifest Prejudice to the Princess of *Denmark*, upon whom the Right devolv'd on her Sister's Demise, notwithstanding which she was prevail'd on to consent thereto, it was surmis'd by those, who were no Well-wishers to her Grace, that, for her own private Interest, she had influenc'd her Highness to forego her undoubted Right; and this gain'd the more Credit, as her Spouse was soon after created Earl of *Marlborough*, had a considerable Post in the Army, was

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was one of the Lords of the Bedchamber, and was in high Favour.

HER Grace, however, ascribes her Conduct, on this Occasion to very different Motives; and accounts for it in such a Manner as must be satisfactory to every Reader, who is not as replete with Malice, Ill-nature, and Prejudice, as the Author of the *Other Side of the Question*. What her Grace alledges, in her own Vindication, is; *first*, that she had no Notion of the Prince of Orange's being made King; and *next*, that, when the Giving him the Crown for Life, was first started, not seeing *any Necessity* for it, she took great Pains to promote her Mistress's Pretensions, but finding all Endeavours of that Kind would be ineffectual, advis'd her to acquiesce with it, rather than endanger the Publick Welfare.

Now, what is there either *incredible*, or *ridiculous*, in this Account, that should induce the above-mention'd good-natur'd, ingenuous, and candid Author, to represent it in the Light he has? Is it at all *improbable*, that she who was then a gay merry Lady, should not foresee that the Prince would be rais'd to the Throne, when, it is well known, it was a Point *long*, and *strongly contested* in *Parliament*, whether he should be so or not? Or is it a Jot *more improbable* that her Ladyship, though a Favourite, should at that Time be intent on nothing but Cards, when, it is consider'd, she was only Favourite to a Princefs, who had never been *in the least consulted* in Affairs of State, neither had *any Interest* at Court?

THEN,

THEN, as to the third Point upon which this Author affects to be so *outrageously witty*, namely, Lady Churchill's being persuaded, that State Measures had no other Spring than the Publick Good, it is a gross Misrepresentation, for her Grace asserts no such Thing. All she says is, "she imagin'd, the Prince of Orange's sole Design was, to provide for the Safety of his own Country, by obliging King James to keep the Laws of our's; and that he would go back as soon as he had made us all happy; that there was no Difficulty in the Execution of this Design, and that to do so much Good would be a greater Pleasure to him, than to be King of any Country upon Earth." Now, as was observ'd before, what is there *incredible*, or *ridiculous* in all this? On the contrary, was it at all *probable*, either that King James should relinquish the Throne in the same Manner he did, or that the Prince should be rais'd to the Throne, and have the whole Administration lodg'd in him, in Prejudice of the Right both of the Princess his Wife, and her Sister?

BUT, to proceed with Impartiality, on this Occasion, we must own, that her Grace suffered her Resentment to get the better of her Prudence, in letting the following *bitter Reflection* on King William escape her Pen; "I might perhaps, wish, it (*meaning the Revolution*) had been compass'd by some other Man, who had more Honour and Justice than he, who could depose his Father-in-Law, and Uncle, to maintain Liberty and Laws, and then act the Tyrant himself in many Instances."

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IT must be confess'd this was an indiscreet Slip ; and accordingly the Author before-mentioned was very careful not to pass it over, but takes Notice of it in the following Terms : " I " cannot take Leave of this Page, without " transcribing the first remarkable Token of " your Grace's Good-will to our *Great Deliverer*, which needs no Comment." Would not any one think, from this Passage, the Author had a great Regard for the Memory of that Prince ; and that the taking Notice of this Slip was purely in Respect thereto ! But, to put it out of Dispute, that it proceeded only from *Malice*, and *Ill-will* to her Grace, we shall cite the following remarkable Paragraph from p. 5, 6, of the same Writer.

" But then they (*the Publick*) expected a " History of your own Times, not an Apology for your own Conduct : They expected " many important Secrets would have been " brought to Light : That, especially no " Consideration whatever, would have prevail'd with you to stifle *all you knew*, relating to that *Birth*, which has been so often " represented as an *Imposture*, but never, *prou'd* " one. In *Justice* and *Gratitude* to the *Father*, " to whom your Lord ow'd so much ; in *Justice* and *Gratitude* to the *People*, of whose " Liberality *Blenheim* is like to be an almost " eternal Monument, they imagin'd you ought " to have stated the *whole Affair*, with all the " Clearness it would admit of : That either no " Pretence might have been left to keep alive " Two *Viper-like Factions*, which *feed on the Kitals* of their Country ; or that the *real Reasons* might be known, which induc'd the " Revolution-

“ Revolution-Patriots, to connive at so infamous a Calumny, and visit the *Iniquities* of
“ the *Father*, on his *innocent Posterity*.³”

WHAT a prodigious Value, the above-mentioned Author must have, for the Memory of King *William*, we think abundantly manifest from this Paragraph; whence it is also evident, that the stiling him our *Great Deliverer*, and taking Notice of the Reflection cast upon him by her Grace, proceeded not from any Respect to him, but from *Malice* and *Prejudice* to her, and to serve a present Turn; for which laudable Design, likewise, this very Paragraph was *invidiously* calculated.

IT would have been somewhat more excusable, however, if the Assertion contain'd therein had been Matter of Fact, whereas in Reality it is *utterly false*: In Effect, it is certain, the Publick did not expect any such Account from her Grace, neither indeed was it possible they shou'd, unless they were either *arrant Fools* themselves, or took the Duchess for one, which, we believe, will not be pretended. In short, was it at all probable, that any Woman of *Common Sense*, and Mistress of such vast Possessions, should put all to the Risque, nay, and her Life also, to clear up a disputed Point, the reviving and even ascertaining which, could not possibly have answer'd any one good End; but might have been productive of much Mischief. It is plain, therefore, this Author inserted this *invidious Insinuation*, merely for the Sake of casting an Odium upon, and blackening her Grace.

AFTER the Settlement of the Crown, in the Manner before related, and the Princess having

having foregone her Right in Favour of the King, it was no more than natural for her to expect to be a little consider'd on that Account; neither was her Grace at all to be blam'd, if she insinuated as much to her Mistress; especially, as whether she did or not, she was well assur'd, every Step her Highness took would be imputed to her Influence.

BUT, whatever Reason the Princess might have, to hope some Concessions would be made in her Behalf, on the before-mention'd Score, it is certain, she reckon'd without her Host; for, soon after the King's coming to *Whitehall*, her Highness having a Mind for those Lodgings, which had been the Duchess of *Portsmouth's*, for herself, and some other Apartments adjoining thereto for her Servants, the former indeed were granted her, but the latter refused; as was likewise the House at *Richmond*, though not us'd by any of the Royal Family; which first began to breed a Coldness between her and the King, by whom her Majesty was absolutely govern'd in all Things.

THIS, no doubt, made her Grace, who was deem'd the Princess's Adviser, be look'd on with an evil Eye at Court; which was considerably heighten'd by the following Circumstances, that were likewise ascrib'd to her Counsels, and, we believe, not altogether without Reason. Her Highness, finding she could not carry so small a Point, as to obtain the before-mention'd House and Lodgings, thought it not reasonable, as she was presumptive Heir to the Crown, that she should be kept in an absolute Dependance upon the King, (of whose Generosity she had no great Opinion) for her Maintenance;

nance; she, therefore, got her Friends in the *House of Commons*, to move: "That she should have Assignments suitable to her Dignity."

THIS was very highly resented both by the King, and Queen, especially as her Highness had not first applied to them, to know what they would please to allow her. However, as they were unwilling, at least, as yet, to come to an open Rupture, no Stone was left unturn'd, to divert her Highness from pushing on that Affair; and accordingly, as the Countess of *Marlborough* was known to have a vast Ascendant over her, great Application was made to her Ladyship, to prevail on her Mistress, to desist from her Pretensions, and accept of such a Revenue, as their Majesties should think fit to assign her.

IN order to gain this Point of the Countess, neither Flattery nor Threatnings were spar'd, but as it happen'd all in vain; insomuch that the Court, finding the Motion would be carried in Spite of them, and fearing a larger Revenue would be assign'd her Highness, than she would have desir'd, had she not been reduc'd to the Necessity of having it mov'd in Parliament, thought proper to compromise the Matter, by an Offer of Fifty Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, which was accordingly settled upon her by the Legislature: And we find her Grace's Behaviour, on this Occasion, was so acceptable to the Princess, that she soon after settled on her a Pension, of a 1000*l.* *per Annum.*

THIS again created a great Coldness between their Majesties and the Princess; and as her

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her Grace had been very active during the whole Affair, and could neither be induc'd by Intreaties nor Threatnings, to betray her Mistress, by sacrificing her Interest, render'd her highly disagreeable to both *King* and *Queen*. Nevertheless, as Dissimulation is a Vice almost inbred in Courts, whether the Earl of *Marlborough*'s Services were judg'd too considerable and important to lay him aside, or whether they had not yet thought of this Expedient, to remove his Lady, they carried it still both to the Princess and her, with the same Coldness as before, though no outward Ceremonies and Civilities were omitted on either Side.

IN this Course, Things continu'd for some Time longer; no new Bone of Contention arising, till the Prince of *Denmark* expressing a Desire to serve as a Voluntier at Sea, and having acquainted his Majesty therewith, and ask'd his Permission, without receiving any Intimation of Dislike, or Order to the contrary, sent his Equipage on Board for that Purpose. This, as appear'd afterwards, was contrary to the King's Pleasure; wherefore the Queen, in whom the Administration was then lodg'd, for his Majesty was in *Flanders*, in Pursuance of her Orders from him at his Departure, (which were neither to suffer the Prince to go, nor yet forbid him, if Matters could be so manag'd to make his staying at Home his own Choice,) sent a Nobleman to the Countess of *Marlborough*, to induce her to bring this to pass, by her Interest with the Princess, without letting it be known it was at her Majesty's Desire. Her Ladyship's Answer was, she would willingly oblige the Queen in any Thing she could, and persuade

persuade her Highness to this, provided she might be allow'd to tell her Reason for so doing; though she was doubtful; Matters being gone so far, whether her Highness herself could prevail on the Prince; but that she would never would be induc'd to propose such a Thing, unless she might have Liberty to make use of her Majesty's Name.

NOTWITHSTANDING this Denial, she was again sollicited to the same Purpose, by the Earl of *Rochester*; but in vain; insomuch that, all other Means failing, a peremptory Order was carried to the Prince, by the Earl of *Nottingham*, to forbid his Going: However, whether it was not yet thought advisable to proceed to Extremities, or whether they could not yet think of a plausible Pretext, for the Removal of her Favourite, the Court carried it still as usual, that is to say, with the same Coldness and outward Civility, both to the Princess and Lady *Marlborough*. But it was not long, before it appear'd, all this was meer Grimace, a Message being sent from the King, to the Earl her Spouse, acquainting him, his Majesty had no more Occasion for his Service, and demanding a Surrender of all his Employments and Commissions: And this Step, it was rightly foreseen, would either involve his Lady in his Disgrace, since she could not expect Leave to attend her Highness to Court, whilst her Husband was on such ill Terms therewith; or, if the Princess should refuse to consent to her Removal, would occasion an open Rupture between her and their Majesties, to which they were resolv'd to proceed, in Case of her Non-

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Compliance with the Orders, for her Favourite's Dismission, as accordingly happen'd.

VARIOUS were the Causes assign'd for this sudden Disgrace of his Lordship; some imputing it, to his having complain'd of the Preference given by the King to the *Dutch*; some to an intercepted Letter which gave Cause of Suspicion; some to his having been so instrumental, together with his Lady, in getting a Settlement made on the Princess; and some to his having acquainted his Spouse, with a private Design upon *Dunkirk*, and her having betray'd it to the Court of *France*, by the Means of her Sister the Duchess of *Tyrconnel*.

WHETHER any of these, or all, or any of them, were the real Cause of his Lordship's Disgrace, is uncertain even to this Day; but, which of them soever might be the *immediate Occasion of blowing up the Coals*, it is a Thing unquestionable, that the Removal of his Lady was at the Bottom of all. As her Grace, however, has been reflected on with the *greatest Virulence*, on Account of the latter, namely, the Betraying the Design upon *Dunkirk*, we shall examine impartially, whether there are any reasonable Grounds, for imagining she could be guilty, of so base a Breach of Trust, to call it no worse. It is well known, to be impossible, from the Nature of Things, to prove a Negative; our Readers, therefore, will not, we suppose, expect it of us; and, indeed, in common Justice, they, who advanc'd this odious Charge, ought to have made it appear very clearly, before they ventur'd to bespatter her with so black a Calumny.

THIS

THIS not being done, is, of itself, a strong Presumption of the Falsity of the Aspersion, and of her Grace's Innocence; but, if this alone be not thought sufficient, we hope to corroborate it with so many others, as shall put it out of all Doubt, so that this *barbarous Lie*, may be *buried* for ever hereafter in the Grave with the Duchess. We suppose, then, it will be easily granted, her Grace would not be guilty of such a Treachery, without any Temptation, since that would be to make her a *downright Fiend*, who *lov'd Mischief for Mischief Sake*; we think it also but reasonable to suppose, she would not engage in such an Affair, without the Prospect of some Advantage, adequate to the Loss she might sustain if discover'd; not to mention the *certain Infamy*, and *Danger*, to which she would be liable, if *detected* in a *criminal Correspondence* with the Enemy. We think it but reasonable, we say, to suppose this, because to imagine otherwise, would be to believe her Grace little better than a *Natural*; which is what her most bitter Opposers never yet pretended; if therefore, we shew, she could have no one Inducement to commit this *Perfidy*, which would be tantamount to the *Risque* she must run, we hope this *Calumny* will for ever fall to the Ground.

LET it be consider'd, then, that the Earl of *Marlborough* was at this very Time, one of the Lords of the Bedchamber, Colonel of a Regiment of Fusileers, a Lieutenant-General in the Army, and likewise, Captain of the Third Troop of Horse-Guards, as he was in the two former Reigns: Add to this, that his Lady was Groom of the Stole to the Princess of *Den-*

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mark, then Presumptive Heir to the Crown. Let it be consider'd, also, that the being *detected* in a *criminal Correspondence* with the Enemy, render'd her liable not only to the *Loss* of all these Advantages, but to the *Pains* and *Penalties* of *High Treason*, that is, to the *Loss* of *Life*, and *eternal Infamy*.

AGAIN, let it be consider'd, that she could not engage in such a Correspondence, with any probable Security, that she should not be betray'd, by the very Person intrusted, even tho' it were her own Sister. It is a well known Maxim amongst the Papists, *Not to keep any Faith with Hereticks*; and it is equally well known, that *Tyrconnel* himself was a bigotted bloody Papist, whatever his Lady was; and, for aught appears to the contrary, she might be the same: Let us then only suppose her, to repose as much Confidence in her Spouse, as the Earl was said to have done in his, and what a Risque must the Countess run?

BUT, this is not all; both the Earl of *Marlborough*, and his Lady, were *detected* by the *Jacobite Party*, whether at Home, or at *St. Germain*, as having been particularly instrumental in bringing about the *Revolution*; and, accordingly, they were the *first* who were *mark'd out for Destruction*, in Case King *James* could be restor'd; it would have been, therefore, little less than *Infatuation* in the Countess, to divulge a Defign, to wrest out of the Enemy's Hands the only Port, from whence a Descent was practicable in Support of that Prince. Let us, then, put the *Loss* of all her Husband's and her own Places, together with the Danger of the *Loss* of Honour, and perhaps Life, in one Scale,

Scale, and we would fain ask the *most prejudic'd* of her Enemies, what the *French Court* could put into the other, to counterballance it; but, more especially, when it is consider'd, she must *depend entirely* upon their *Sincerity* for the *Performance of Articles*, and that their *very Principles* oblige them to be *false to Prtestants*?

ONE would believe, what has been already said, were more than sufficient for her *Vindication* from so *improbable a Charge*; and even to put her *Innocency* upon this Head out of *Question*; but, lest it should still remain a *Doubt*, with any one, we will add some other *Circumstances*, so *very strong*, that they must convince the *most incredulous*, though, perhaps, they will not have the *Candour* and *Ingenuity* to own it.

AND *first*, is it to be believ'd, so *earnestly bent* as, it is manifest, their *Majesties* were upon the *Removal* of the *Countess*, that, *knowing* herself *guilty* of *so heinous a Crime*, and that they were *not ignorant* of it, she would *have dared to have faced them*; much more, that she would have continu'd with the *Princess*, contrary to their *positive* and *repeated Commands*, in *direct Opposition* to, and *Defiance* of them; especially, when she was *sensible* they could not only *divulge* a *Transfaction* which would *render her odious* to the *whole Kingdom*, but that her *Life was at Stake*, and *at their Mercy*? No, undoubtedly, she would have fled from their *Presence*, as *Jonah* did from that of *GOD*, *thankful* that she *escap'd*, without the *Loss of Life and Estate*!

AGAIN, it is a known Maxim in all Courts, (and we believe we may say throughout the

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World) to *love the Treason, and hate the Traytor* ; and this is spoken of those who profit by the Treason ; how then must it be with those who are injur'd thereby ? This being granted, can it be suppos'd that the Princess, who, it is evident, by the Queen's Letter to her Highness, (Account, p. 43.) was not ignorant of the Cause of the King's Displeasure, and who never was tax'd with the Want of Sense, would have foster'd such a Viper in her Bosom ?

It is well known, what made her set so great a Value upon Lady Marlborough, was her esteem-ing her Ladyship as an *unshaken Friend*, in whose Breast she safely deposited all Secrets ; and would her Highness have retain'd her one Moment longer, in that Capacity, after her being detected in divulging not only the *Secrets* of her King, which alone ought to have been *sacred*, but those of her *Husband* ! of a *fond Husband* ! and such *Secrets*, as exposed him to the *utter Loss* of *Honours, Preferments, and Liberty* ; and herself to the *Loss* of *Life* ? It is *utterly incredible*, that any one of *common Sense*, should be guilty of *such a Weakness* ; and, were there no other Circumstance than this one, it is sufficient to overthrow the whole Charge, in the Opinion of any *impartial Judge*.

But there is yet one more, with which we shall conclude our Justification of her Grace, upon this Head ; namely, that it appears from the *Account*, p. 100. that the Earl of Rochester, who had a *great Ascendant* over the Queen, and was by no Means a Friend to Lady Marlborough, insinuated to several of the Princess's Household, " that, if her *Highness* would put " away the Countess, he was persuaded, the " Queen would, in some Time, be prevail'd on " to

“ to let her take her Ladyship again.”. Now, 'tis very evident, had the Crime of the Countess been of *so deep a Dye* as is pretended, there could have been no Room, to hope for *her Re-admission*, upon any Terms. Well, then, we must seek some other Cause of the Lord *Marlborough*’s Disgrace; and what more likely, than his *Dissatisfaction* at the *visible Preference of Foreigners*? which, *if true*, is *rather meritorious*, than *otherwise*; and, we are proud to say it, he was *ever follow'd* by her Grace, and is *still follow'd therein*, by more than one of his *illustrious Descendants*.

AFTER this open Rupture between the *Queen* and *Princess*, on Account of the Lady *Marlborough*, (which proceeded so far that *her Highness* was not only forced, either to go from the *Cockpit*, or part with her, but her Guards were taken from her, and all the Court forbid waiting on her) we don’t find any Thing remarkable relating to her Grace, 'till soon after the *Princess*’s removing to *Sion-House* near *Brentford*, in Consequence of that Rupture; when a dreadful Plot was reported to have been discover’d, in which not only the Earl of *Marlborough*, but divers other Noblemen, were pretended to have been concern’d; and accordingly his Lordship, together with the other Peers, was committed to the *Tower*.

This coming just upon the Back of his former Disgrace, may reasonably be imagin’d, to have greatly affected his Lady; who accordingly came immediately to *London*, to attend him, and sollicit his Enlargement; which, after as many Delays as could possibly be made, was at last obtain’d upon Bail: And, when the Affair

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came to be enquired into, it appear'd to be a manifest and scandalous Forgery ; insomuch, that the Lords were not only honourably acquitted, but the Commitment of his Lordship, and the other Peers, involv'd in the Accusation with him, upon such profligate Evidence, was very near drawing down the Resentment of the Houfe of Lords, not only upon the Judges, but upon the Ministry.

We know not whether it was before, or after this Commitment of his Lordship, that her Highness, not being now accompany'd with Guards, was attack'd by Highwaymen and robbed, on the Road between *London* and *Sion-House* ; which occasion'd not only much Laughter among the Jokers, but many severe Reflections among the Serious, on the presumptive Heir to the Crown's being expos'd to such Danger ; Lady *Marlboroug'h*, at the same Time, had the additional Affliction to lose one of her Sons, *John*, Lord *Brackley* ; on which Occasion, the Princess wrote her a Letter of Condoleance, which is a convincing Proof, of the tender Friendship she then had for her Ladyship, however her Sentiments were altered afterwards in that Respect.

For aught we can find to the contrary, Things continu'd in pretty much the same Situation, 'till the Time of Queen *Mary's* Death ; when the King, not thinking it adviseable, to continue any longer in an open Breach with the Princess, (which would have render'd her Court the Rendezvous of all who were disgusted, and discontented ; and might have prov'd of the utmost ill Consequence to his Affairs, by giving Rise to a powerful Faction) lent an Ear to thoſe

who

who proposed an Accommodation between them; which, however, proceeded no farther than to a cold Civility; her Highness neither being consulted about, nor let into the Secret of Affairs. Accordingly, this Reconciliation, does not seem to have had any Manner of Effect, upon the Concerns of the *Marlborough* Family; only, as her Grace was well known to have great Influence over the Princess, who by the Queen's Demise was become Heir apparent to the Crown, and as the King was thought in a very declining State of Health, and it is usual for People to turn their Eyes to the rising Sun, it was natural for all those, who expected Favours in the next Reign, to make their Court to her.

ABOUT two Years after this, another Attack was made upon the Earl of *Marlborough*, by Sir *John Fenwick*; who, well knowing his Lordship was not in his Majesty's good Graces, on Account of his declared Aversion to his foreign Minions, and being sensible, he could not do King *James* more effectual Service, than by compleating his Ruin; believing, likewise, probably, that any ill Impression of his Lordship would be readily received, accused him of having made his Peace with that unfortunate Prince, and being in Measures to promote his Interest. As it happen'd, however, Sir *John* was deceived, at this Time, in his Expectation; for his Charge being supported by no other Evidence but his own, and not corroborated by any likely Circumstances, but seeming visibly calculated, merely to save his own Life, by bringing his Majesty's best and most useful Subjects under a Suspicion, obtained little or no Credit; and had no farther Effect, than to occasion that

Lord

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Lord and his Lady some Trouble and Uneasiness.

THIS was the last Attempt, that was made in that Reign, to blacken the Character of his Lordship, and shake the Interest of the Countess with the Prince; accordingly, we do not hear of any remarkable Occurrence conceruing them, 'till about two Years after, when Things took a new Turn in their Favour; the Earl being about that Time appointed Governor to the Duke of Gloucester, and one of the Privy-Council, not only without his Sollicitation, (and consequently contrary to his Expectation) but preferably to many other Noblemen of the first Rank, who had made Interest for that important Charge.

WHAT render'd this Promotion of his Lordship the more acceptable and surprizing, was, the agreeable Compliment with which it was conferr'd; and which coming from a Person, so little used thereto as his Majesty, was greatly taken Notice of, as a singular Mark of Distinction; at the same Time that it was an evident Proof of his Majesty's good Judgment, and not having suffered himself, to be blinded by Prejudice, even at a Juncture when his Resentment against that Lord was at the highest: My Lord, said the King to him, upon delivering the Prince into his Hands, *Teach him to be but what you are, and my Nephew cannot want Accomplishments.* This signal Honour, conferr'd in such a handsome Manner, could not fail of drawing the Eyes of the Publick upon the *Marlborough* Family; and, as his Lordship hereby appear'd fully restor'd to the Royal Favour, and the Countess was known to be strongly fix'd in that

that of the Heir Apparent, and both of them, by the Means of this new Employment, seemed pretty secure even of that of her Successor, no Doubt great Court was made to them from henceforward; but, as the Princess herself was not at the Head of the Councils, nor even privy to, or consulted at all about State Affairs, we do not yet find her Grace acting in any other Scene, than that of an accomplish'd Court Lady.

SOON after this agreeable Turn, in Favour of her Spouse, the Earl receiv'd a new Proof of the King's extraordinary Esteem for him, in being appointed one of the Lords Justices, during the Absence of his Majesty, who took a short Trip to *Holland*, about some Affairs of Importance. His Lordship had also the same Honour conferr'd upon him, in the two ensuing Years, in the last of which his Lordship, and the whole Kingdom, receiv'd an irreparable Loss, in the Death of his Princely Pupil, the Duke of *Gloucester*; who died of a malignant Fever, at the Age of Eleven, after having rais'd the greatest Expectations of him, throughout the Nation. The Year following, the King, who was but too sensible of the declining State of his Health, gave his Lordship, a yet more convincing Proof, of the great Opinion he had of him; by declaring him not only General of the Foot, and Commander in Chief of all his Forces in *Holland*, but appointing him Embassador Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiary, at the *Hague*. We mention these Particulars only cursorily, and *en passant*, to keep up the Thread of the Relation; because her Grace was no otherwise affected by them, than

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than as they reflected Honour upon herself, and seem'd a tacit *Justification* of her Character, from all those *black Aspersions*, and *barbarous Calumnies*, which had been so industriously spread about her, especially in Regard to the Affair of *Dunkirk*; since it could not be imagin'd, his Majesty would have repos'd so great a Confidence in his Lordship, had he been before guilty of betraying such Secrets to his Lady.

We hasten now to the Conclusion of this Reign, wherein we find little or nothing else remarkable happen'd, at least with Regard to her Grace, till the Melancholy Accident which occasion'd the King's Death, and the Advancement of the Prince of *Denmark* to the Throne; when we shall behold her in a quite different Light, and as one, whose Influence not only highly affected these Kingdoms, but even great Part of *Europe*. It may very well be imagin'd, from the severe Treatment the Duchess met with from his Majesty, and the great Advantages she might reasonably promise herself from this Change, that his Death did not give her any sensible Concern; she would not have been believ'd had she pretended it; but, on the other Hand, we are assur'd by her, it did not create in her any extravagant or indecent Joy, which is as much as could be expected. The Truth is, his Majesty, notwithstanding his great Qualities, was not remarkable for Good Nature, as even the Queen, his Consort, herself experienced, on more than one Occasion; neither was he much of a Courtier; which is the less to be wonder'd at, as he was a *Dutchman*, and it is well known, very few of them, whether *High Dutch*,

Dutch or Low, overflow with Civility, or good Breeding : But to proceed.

ON the Eighth of *March* 1701-2, the Princess of *Denmark* ascended the Throne, and as the Interest of the Countess of *Marlborough* with her, was now no Secret, insomuch that her Ladyship was look'd upon by every one, as the Canal thro' which all the Queen's Favours were to be convey'd; it is by no Means surprizing, that Application was made to her, by every one, who had any Thing to ask or expect from her Majesty. It may very well be imagin'd, that this sooth'd her Ladyship's Vanity mighty agreeably, she must have been more than Woman if it had not; but, notwithstanding the Persecution, she had long undergone, from those about the late King and Queen, and her now almost absolute Influence (at least at that Juncture) over her Majesty; notwithstanding the numberless Invectives publish'd against her, both when in Place, and out of Place; notwithstanding all the outragious Calumnies with which she was blacken'd, we don't find she ever vented her Resentment against any of her Enemies, by any Act of Cruelty, or any one single Stretch of Power, not only at first, but during the whole Time of her continuing in Favour: We much question, whether many Instances of such Moderation in Court-Minions, especially in Females, can be produc'd in History.

To render this evident, beyond all Contradiction, let it only be remember'd, that the Earl of *Rochester* was the principal Person, to whose Account her Grace places all the ill Treatment, she met with under the late Reign; and yet, when the Queen came to settle her Ministry,

that

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that Lord was declar'd Lord-Lieutenant of *Ireland*, even tho' the late King, some Weeks before his Death, had sent a Message to that Nobleman, acquainting him, he had put an End to the Commission, by which his Lordship had been advanc'd to the same Post, under his Majesty. Now, from hence, one of these two Things is demonstrably manifest ; either, that her Ladyship was not so all-powerful with the Queen as has been represented, (and then she can't be reckon'd accountable for every Step of her Majesty's, during her Favour) or that she could have prevented this Promotion, but had too much Magnanimity thus to retaliate upon him.

We are sensible, it will be answered by her Grace's Enemies, that his Lordship's Relation to the Queen entitled him to that Place, or any other to which he might have pretended, and for which he was qualify'd ; and that it would not have been ~~safe~~ for her Ladyship, to have contested this with him, lest it should have been resented as an Affront by her Royal Mistress, and have turn'd to her own Prejudice. But, either this proves nothing at all, or it provcs too much ; for, if his Lordship's being related to the Queen, entitled him to such a Place in her good Graces, that it would not have been safe for the Lady, to have oppos'd his Pretensions ; certainly, the Letter written by the Princess to him, in Answer to one of his Lordship's, on Account of all Company's being forbid to wait on her, can never, with any Colour of Justice, be ascrib'd to her Ladyship's Influence, And, on the other Hand, if that Answer was indeed both written and indited by her Highness, and contain'd

contain'd the real Sentiments of her Heart; it is more reasonable to believe, his Nomination to that high Post, was not so much owing to the Queen's Inclination, as to the Discretion, if not Goodness of her Ladyship; who was willing to gain him over by good Offices, to the Queen's Measures, that he might not obstruct them by forming an Opposition, to which, she well knew, his turbulent Temper render'd him but too prone.

To return from whence we have digress'd; soon after the Queen's Accession to the Throne, her Majesty, in Consideration of her Ladyship's faithful Services, was pleas'd to appoint her Groom of the Stole, Mistress of the Robes, and Keeper of the Privy-Purse; and as for her Lord, he was made one of the Knights of the Garter, and Captain General of all her Majesty's Forces. To satisfy his Lordship yet more, and, no Doubt, to please her Favourite likewise, the Earl of *Godolphin* (upon whom they could both absolutely depend, and whose Son, Lord *Rialton*, had married their eldest Daughter Lady *Harriet*, afterwards Duchess of *Marlborough* in her own Right) was constituted Lord High Treasurer; by which Means the Lord *Marlborough* was sure to have timely Remittances, of whatever Sums were allotted for the Use of the Army: And, indeed, it was entirely owing to this good Intelligence, which always subsisted between them, that his Lordship was able to perform such extraordinary Actions; as it was to the Misunderstandings, between his Ministers and Parliaments, in King *William's* Reign, that all his Majesty's Undertakings prov'd so unsuccessful. In Effect, the Lord *Marlborough* had seen enough
of

of the ill Consequences of this, in his Majesty's Time, to make him very unwilling, to be himself expos'd to the same Danger. It is credibly reported, that his Lordshiy was not wholly indebted, for this important Post, to her Majesty's Complaisance for his Lady, but that it was partly at the Recommendation of the deceased Monarch; who had pointed him out, as the properest Man in the three Kingdoms to command her Armies, as being a Person of a *cool Head*, and a *warm Heart*. That his Majesty was an excellent Judge of Mankind, and Master of great Penetration, will hardly be disputed by any one; nor can there be a more convincing Proof of it, than on this Occasion; but still, we believe, the prodigious Actions of the Earl of *Marlborough* by far surpass'd his most sanguine Expectations.

THERE have not been wanting some, who have been malicious enough to insinuate, that the perfect Intelligence, which so long subsisted, between the General, and the Treasurer, was owing to the particular Attachment of the latter to the Favourite; and upon this Foundation, the ingenious Author of the *Atalantis*, has entertain'd her Readers with a Piece of Secret History, which wants nothing but *Truth*, to render it *agreeable*. According to this *modest* Writer, the Favourite, who is there stil'd *Madame de Caria*, was in a Commerce of Gallantry with a Nobleman, of the first Rank, there term'd the Duke of *Candia*; and, in Order to meet him privately, pretended a vehement Desire, to go, in the Disguise of a Country Lass, to a certain Garden, not far from the Palace where the Court then was, to buy Fruit, as if

if to sell again; of which Frolick, the Treasurer, there nam'd the Count *de Biron*, who was in Fee with all her Servants, had timely Notice; and not believing, but there was something mysterious in this whimsical Extravagance, was resolv'd to watch her Ladyship. Accordingly, getting to the appointed Place, some Time before her, he prevail'd (by his Gold) upon the Gardiner's Wife, to conceal him in an upper Room, (on Pretence of having fought a Duel, and being apprehensive of a Search after him,) from whence he had the full Command, both of the Road and Garden, and could see every One, who went in or out.

HE had not waited here long, before he saw the Duke *de Candia*, attended only by one Servant, riding towards the House on a full Gallop; which he was no sooner come within a Field of, than he alighted, and leaving his Horse with his Man, went directly into the Garden. Soon after, her disguis'd Ladyship, accompany'd by her Woman, appear'd also; and seem'd highly delighted with her Frolick. The Count, tho' appriz'd of her intended Dress, knew her better by her Voice, than he would otherwise have done in that Habit, and was almost mad with Jealousy, when he saw her enter the same Place; where she was immediately join'd by the Duke; after which they both walk'd off into a Labyrinth which was there, leaving the Woman to surfeit, if she pleas'd, on the fine Fruit, that grew there in great Plenty.

HEREUPON the jealous Count, resolving to disturb a Happiness, wherein himself had no Share, hasten'd down from his Hiding-Place; and, tho' he did not know what might be the

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Consequence of this his unseasonable Interruption, follow'd directly after them. But, being a consummate Politician, and considering, as he was on the Way thither, that, if he could but dislodge his Rival, he might himself reap the Benefit of that Morning's Masquerade; he judg'd it would be best, to give the Duke an Opportunity of seeing him, without believing himself seen; upon which, probably, he would endeavour to withdraw, to avoid being made the Jest of the Court, for rising so early, and taking such extraordinary Pains, to meet only two Country-Girls; but that her Ladyship might imagine herself secure in that Dress; and, indeed, every Thing fell out, exactly as the artful Count had foreseen.

In approaching the destin'd Scene of Love, he affected, then, to cough, and sing an Air, nay, to read aloud some Lines, out of a Book he held in his Hand, on Purpose to make himself known. The disappointed Pair immediately took the Alarm, and it was judg'd best for the Duke to retire, for the Reasons before-mention'd; Madam *de Caria* trusting to her Disguise, and assuring his Grace, she did not doubt getting off without Suspicion. It may well be imagin'd, as they soon knew his Lordship, they gave him many hearty Maledictions, for rendering abortive the Scheme, of so well concerted an Assignation; but, 'twas concluded there was no staying for his Grace, and if he did, it would be to little Purpose; since, if Count *Biron* discover'd them, he would certainly join them, and undoubtedly rally him excessively, upon his Adventure with a Country-Lass: In short, they saw, that every Way their Morning's Diversion

version was spoil'd, by the unlucky Arrival of the Statesman; tho' they were far from imagining, it was a premeditated Design.

THE Duke, being thus forc'd to decamp and march off, her disguis'd Ladyship ventur'd out soon after; to the great Satisfaction of the impatient Count, who was all the while upon the Watch, and, making Haste after her, overtook her, before she was out of the Labyrinth, and brought her back to the most retir'd Part of it. Though somewhat surpriz'd at this, yet thinking herself safe from being known, under that Dress, she resolv'd to play her Part to the Life, the better to avoid Suspicion; and, accordingly, struggling, blushing, frowning, and dropping Abundance of affected Country-Curtseys, she ask'd what he meant, pray'd him to be civil and let her go, or assur'd him, she would call the Gardiner, who was her Uncle.

MEAN while, the Count, highly delighted with this Scene, and pretending to take her really for what she seem'd, almost smother'd her with Kisses; and ventur'd upon some Liberties, from which her Ladyship could not defend herself, neither appear'd she much displeas'd at them.

THE politick Count, observing this, having heard of the Caprice of Court-Ladies, and having experienc'd something like it himself, be-thought himself, that Madam *de Caria*, under her present Disguise, might be induc'd to grant him that Favour, which would cost him Abundance of Affiduity and Time, besides innumerable Lies and Oaths, in her own Person. He consider'd, likewise, the Temptation, of her imagin'd Security from being known, and her

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Blood being upon the Ferment, from the Thought of those Pleasures she expected from the Duke; and which their unwelcome Disappointment had not so far dampt, but the Liberties he had taken might have fir'd her anew; and from the whole he judg'd, that then or never might be the critical Minute.

To carry on the Farce, therefore, in her own Way, he took a Purse of Gold out of his Pocket, and dropt it into her Bosom. According to this Writer, her Ladyship was so far a *Danae*, that Jupiter himself must have woo'd her in a golden Shower; and tho' that was no Sum to bribe Madam *de Caria* at her own Lodging, and in her own Person, it was a large one for a Country-Lass; her Ladyship, therefore, having a Soul so well fitted for the Love of Money, that she set a Value upon the smalleſt Trifle, and never car'd to lose what she could conveniently and safely gain, look'd upon this as the real Effect of her Beauty, wherein neither her Quality nor Interest, had any Part.

PLEASING herself, then, with the Thought, this was but a Frolick, and the Count would not know her again, she never lik'd him so well before; and, in short, made such a faint Resistance, that the Count scarce durſt hope to be so happy, as that seem'd to promise him: To be as obliging, however, as possible, he did not fail giving her Virtue the Pretence, of the utmost Force on his Side; insomuch, that he made himself as happy, as he could desire, with his pretended Country-Maiden.

His Lordship, nevertheless, did not immediately undeceive her, by letting her know she was discover'd; but, carrying on the Jefſt yet some-

somewhat longer, said to her, My dear Child' why don't you come to Court? By Heavens! you are lovelier than any Thing we have there! I never saw any Thing so fair! You have the prettiest innocent Blush, it fires me but to look on you! You are so like the very handsomest Woman about the Princess, that I am distracted for you, and doat on you for the very Resemblance, tho' she is not half so pretty, nor so engaging. The Innocence and Simplicity of this Drefs, which leaves Nature to herself, is a Thousand Times beyond all Court-Ornaments. How unadorn'd, how beautiful you are; What is your Name, my dear Child, that I may know how to call you? Every Thing that belongs to you, must be precious to me, What is your Name? *Maria*, Sir, answer'd her blushing Ladyship, with a pretty affected Lisp; I fear you are but an inconstant Spark, and will quickly forget your poor *Maria*, now you have undone her. Suppose I should prove with Child, as who can tell, they say such Things have been? Why then send to me, pretty *Maria*, reply'd the Count, and I'll take Care of that and thee. Aye, but where shall I find you, rejoin'd the Lady, you may be a Lord, for aught I know, by your Money, so you may, and what Lord will own Acquaintance with a sorry Country-Girl? You may be proud, when you are at your own Home, tho' you are so humble now. My dear *Maria*, cry'd the Count, interrupting and embracing her, don't describe yourself, don't you be so, and *Biron* is the most happy of Men. Oh! there is no Danger of me, answer'd she, what have poor Folks to be proud of? That ravishing Beauty, reply'd he, which, if you had

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been born in a Cottage, would have raised you to a Throne; if there could be found a Monarch who loves like me.

HEYDAY! you talk in the Clouds, cry'd she, what have I to do with Kings? But now you must let me go, for my Father and Mother will miss me, and my Uncle and Aunt will be angry at my staying so long with a Gentleman. You won't tell them what we have done, will you? No, my dear Marchionefs, said the fond *Biron*, nor no Soul alive. How, cry'd her Ladyship, with quite another Sort of a Look, what do you call me? The dear, ravishing Madam *de Carria*, who has made *Biron* the happiest of all Men, answ'red he.---Oh! could you know yourself so little, to think any Thing could disguise that Form of your's, from a Lover, who has so long desir'd and ador'd you! A very pretty Morning's Work, said her Ladyship in a Pet, I own; I hate you so for over-reaching me, that I will never forgive you. We will try that, my dear *Maria*, cry'd he, interrupting, and forcibly kissing her; come, 'tis meer Caprice to like me less, because I know you; I shall tell no Body; you are sure your Honour is safe in my Keeping.----That affected Sullenness, and reassum'd native Pride, is not half so becoming as your Kindnes.----Would you have me your Slave, subdue me with Love, there I am defenceless; behold, the willing Victim of your Charms! Come, you shan't be peevish, you shall forgive me; and, to shew you do, permit Count *Biron* to be as happy with the Marchionefs, as he was with *Maria*.

THUS, according to this Author, from whom we have transcrib'd this almost *verbatim*, was this

this great Lady engag'd in an Intrigue with the Treasurer, to the utter Supplanting and Exclusion of his before happy Rival ; but, to use a favourite Phrase of our News-Writers, this Story wants Confirmation ; and yet, however improbable it seems, we remember the Time, when many People believ'd it more firmly than they did their Creed ; but we think it will hardly gain Credit, at present, with any one, who is not weak enough to take for Truth, all the idle Tales in *Pharamond*, or *Cassandra*. In Effect, it is very evident, this is exactly of the same Nature with them, as are also a Hundred others, to the same Purpose ; whereof we have not thought it worth while to take Notice, as being all equally alike, the Product of a fertile Brain, and consisting, according to the Poet, of

Much Malice, mingled with a little Wit.

For, supposing we were to admit this Lady, to have been of as gallant an Inclination as she is here represented, will any One imagine her, to have been so weak and indiscreet, as to let all the Particulars of her Amours get Air ? And, if not, which Way could this Author have so exact a Detail of them ? It is evident, from the very Account here given, there were but four Persons privy to this Frolick, as it is there called ; and even of those, there were but two, namely, the Persons concern'd, who were privy to the Conclusion of it ; how, then, came this Author so well acquainted, with all the most secret Circumstances and Passages, (such as that of the Purse of Gold,) as to be able to recite every Word spoken in this affecting *Tete à Tete*.

BUT, this is not to be wonder'd at, in a Person, who has the Front to insinuate, that her Husband himself was privy to this Intrigue, and conniv'd at it for his own Interest; as if a Man of his Character and Station, would not only have sacrific'd his Honour in so tender a Point, but would have behav'd so indiscreetly, to let this his Connivance be known: Wherefore, this one Stretch of Assurance alone, is enough to overthrow all that such a Writer asserts.

IT is not at all difficult, however, to account for the Rise of these horrid Calumnies; the perfect Intelligence, which reign'd without Interruption, between the Treasurer, the General, and the Favourite, by which Means the former was enabled to perform such prodigious Services, as render'd all Opposition ineffectual, and either silenc'd or refuted all Calumnies, made their Enemies perfectly at their Wits End. They saw plainly, whilst this Harmony subsisted, it was in vain to attack any of them, as it was almost impracticable to remove them; since they mutually supported each other; and were like a threefold Cord, not to be broken; especially, whilst continual Success attended all their Counsels and Enterprizes. Enrag'd, then, at all their Schemes being defeated, they were resolv'd to blacken them, if they could not hurt them any otherwise; and, as the Treasurer's Post render'd it necessary for him, to consult frequently with One, who had so much of the Queen's Confidence and Ear as the Favourite, they made this a Handle, to charge them with a criminal Correspondence; though, had they had one Grain of Modesty, the near Alliance that subsisted between them, by the Marriage of the Treasurer's

Son

Son with the eldest Daughter of the General and Favourite, was a more than sufficient Reason for their strict Friendship and Intimacy, had it not been their mutual Interest, as it certainly was in the highest Degree.

But, perhaps, these shallow Politicians, by industriously propagating such Stories, in such a Manner, that it was impossible they should not reach the Ears of the Earl her Husband, if not those of the Queen, her Mistress; might flatter themselves with the Hopes, of either breaking off, by this Means, the good Correspondence which render'd them invulnerable, or of inducing her Majesty, who, they knew, would not keep any One of a suspicious Character about her, to part with her Favourite; in which Case, it would have been the more easy to undermine the others: If this was their View, however, their Scheme fail'd on all Sides; which alone is a strong Presumption, and amounts almost to a Proof, of the Falsity of all such Reports to her Ladyship's Prejudice; and is a sufficient Reason, why we should take no farther Notice of them, but pass on to what is more material.

We think it of very little Importance, to enter into the Dispute, whether the first Step the Queen took, in throwing her Affairs almost entirely into the Hands of the *Tories*, was against the Lady *Marlborough*'s Wishes and Inclination, as her Grace asserts; or whether it is to be judg'd conformable thereto, as is affirm'd by the Author of the *Other Side of the Question*, because it is of no Consequence to the Publick; only we shall observe, *en passant*, that we think it more reasonable to give Credit to the Duchess of

of *Marlborough*, who must certainly be best acquainted with her own Sentiments, than to any anonymous Writer whatever. And, indeed, notwithstanding all the Clamour, that was rais'd against her Grace, during the Time of her Continuance in Favour, tho' it is very probable, (and, to say the Truth, partly appears, from the Letters that pass'd between the Queen and her) that she did offer her Advice on most Occasions, we don't find, she ever presum'd to dictate to her Mistress, as has been falsely imputed to her; or pretended to prescribe her private Opinion, as a Law, from which her Majesty must not dare to swerve.

A very convincing Proof to the contrary, we think, results from the first Creation of Peers by her Majesty, in the first Year of her Reign. The Queen, it seems, either in Conformity to her own Inclinations; or to the Advice of the *Tories*, had resolv'd to promote four of that Party to the Dignity of Peerage; upon which the Lady *Marlborough* (who was then retir'd into the Country, upon the Death of her only Son, the Marquis of *Blandford*) being engag'd by Promise, to use her Interest for the Grant of the same Favour to Mr. *Harvey*, wrote to her Spouse, and the Lord *Godolphin*, to prevail on her Majesty in his Behalf, tho' he was a Whig. This, it seems, the Queen, in Consideration of her Favourite, was induc'd to grant, tho' not without some Difficulty: Does this look as if the Will, or Direction of the Countess, was a Law to her Majesty? But, if Lady *Marlborough* did not pretend to dictate to her, it is plain the *Tories* did, and that in so undeniable a Branch of the Prerogative, as the Nomination to Honours;

nours; for tho' Four of their Party were to be promoted, and but One of the other, these Four refus'd, on that Account, for some Time, to accept of the proffer'd Honour. With how ill a Grace, then, must the Charge, of dictating to the Sovereign, come out of their Mouths ever after? It may not be amiss, likewise, to observe upon this Head, that her Grace having exerted her Interest, for the first Time, in Behalf of a *Whig*, is a strong Presumption, that she favour'd the *Whigs*; and that her Declaration, that her Majesty *threw her Affairs almost entirely into the Hands of the Tories, contrary to her Wishes and Inclination*, is really true.

THERE is yet another signal Proof, in our Opinion, of the Impartiality and Prudence of her Grace's Behaviour, and the modest Use she made of her Power, notwithstanding its having been grossly misrepresented, by the before-mention'd Author of the *Other Side of the Question*. The Queen, it seems, at her Accession to the Throne, had resolv'd to have no more then Ten Ladies of the Bedchamber; wherefore, at the Settling her Household, the Duchess of *Somerset*, who had the Refusal of one of these Places, having declin'd accepting it, they were all fill'd up without her; and amongst the Rest, Lady *Hyde*, Daughter-in-Law to the Earl of *Rochester*, was appointed one, at the express Desire of the Lady *Marlborough*.

HOWEVER, her Grace of *Somerset*, soon after changing her Mind, and being desirous of the like Favour, though there was no Vacancy, Lady *Marlborough*, in Consideration of her being the first Protestant Duchess in the Kingdom, and the great Interest of the Duke her Spouse,

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one of the haughtiest Men in *Europe*, advis'd her Majesty to comply with her Grace's Desire, especially, as one of them, Lady *Charlot Beverwaert*, was irrecoverably ill, whose Death would again reduce them to the stated Number. This Advice her Majesty did not think at all unreasonable, and accordingly acquiesc'd therewith; but it must be own'd, without either *acquainting* my Lord *Rochester* with, or *publishing*, in the *Gazette*, her Reasons for so doing, or her Resolution to have no more than Ten, upon the first Vacancy; which happen'd not long after, by the Death of the Lady before-mention'd. Upon this, the Earl of *Rochester* apply'd to the Favourite, in Behalf of his Daughter, the Lady *Dalkeith*, and was inform'd of her Majesty's Determination; as were also divers others, who sollicited the same Favour; which Excuse, tho' both reasonable and true, it is not unlikely, his Lordship might take very heinously.

BUT, however that be, sure we are, from this Account of that whole Transaction, there was no Room for that *malicious Sneer*, of the before-mention'd Author; who is pleas'd to observe, upon this Head, that her Majesty could recede from her System, at her Grace's *Persuasion*, in Favour of the FIRST DUCHESS, but not in Favour of her FIRST COUSIN *without it*.

How unfair and *disingenuous*, is this Insinuation! Was there, then, no Difference between admitting of an extraordinary Lady of the Bed-chamber, for a few Months, upon a particular Occasion, and to avoid giving a Disgust, to One, not only of the first Quality, but the haughtiest Man in the three Kingdoms; to One, likewise, who during the Difference between the two Sisters,

ters, had *generously* lent her Majesty one of his Seats, tho' *earnestly dissuaded* from it by the King; who, not improbably, might have employ'd the Earl of *Rochester* himself, as one of his Emissaries for that Purpose? Was there no Difference between this, we say, and admitting another, upon the Decease of that very Lady, on Account of whose long-foreseen Death alone, the Queen had *vouchsaf'd* to receive the Duchess; (who was, indeed, but a Kind of Supernumerary, to perform the Functions of dying Lady *Charlot*,) which would have establish'd a Precedent, for keeping up that Number for the future?

WHAT renders this Censure the *more unfair* is, that her Majesty kept to this Resolution, of having no more than Ten Ladies in that Post, after the Duchess of *Marlborough* was in Disgrace; which shews, it was her fix'd Determination, and not any Pretence of her Groom of the Stole. In Effect, we don't believe any one Instance can be produc'd, of her making either a bad, or an ill-natur'd Use of her Power, unless it be call'd so, to endeavour the Disgrace of those, whom we know to be labouring to undermine ourselves, which is no more than Self-preservation; but of this more hereafter.

As the Queen, when Princess, had always liv'd with her Grace upon the Foot of a Friend, and in Consequence of that, had desir'd and expressly commanded her, not to observe those Ceremonies, which her high Rank demanded, but to treat her with Freedom, and declare her Mind without Reserve, as if they were Equals; her Grace, who was ever averse to Flattery, and, tho' a Court-Lady, had none of the Dissimulation

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tion of Courtiers, obey'd her M^resty but too honestly, and too punctually for her own Interest.

FOR some Time that Princess, who had all Manner of good Qualities, and scarce any other Failing, than that of being too easily impos'd on, by those who pretended an extraordinary Zeal for her Service, and would give into all her Prejudices, took this Frankneſs of her Favourite in good Part; and, perhaps, might never have done otherwise, had it not been for the Intervention of some *designing Sycophants*, who could find no other Way to her Favour, but by making Court to, and humouring her Passions, at the Expence of her Character and Interest.

THE Queen had ever been a *bigotted Tory*, the Lady *Marlborough*, who was of a different Way of Thinking, making use of the Liberty her Majesty had granted her, had always endeavoured to wean her, from her Prepossession in Favour of that Party: The Queen was utterly averse to Bloodshed, nor did she ever receive News of a Victory, though ever so signal, without being sensibly shock'd at the Numbers of Lives it cost; which was a considerable Damp to the Joy it would otherwise have given her; the Lady *Marlborough*, whether it was that she was more a Heroine, or whether there was a little Self-Interest in the Case, (for Nobody is without Failings) though it does not appear she was averse to Peace, could not bear the Thoughts of one, upon *precarious* or *dishonourable Terms*: It is not at all to be wonder'd at, therefore, if this Contrariety of Sentiments, upon Points perpetually occurring in Discourse, did sometimes cause ill Impressions in her Majesty, nor, if being

ing artfully fann'd into a Flame, by fawning and self-interested Pick-thanks, they at last proved her Grace's Overthrow,

But, as that Lady had been so firmly rivetted in the Queen's Affections, for so many Years, and indeed had deserved no less, for her faithful Services, and disinterested Attachment to her Majesty, this was a Work of Time, and not to be precipitated. Had her Grace's Enemies proceeded openly, or attack'd her violently at the first, her Majesty herself, who had excellent Sense, would have been not only alarm'd but disgusted, and all their Plots would have been rendered abortive at once ; it was necessary therefore, to go on with great Caution, and wean her from her Favourite by slow Degrees ; and this they cou'd never have done, but by making a Handle of this Contrariety between them, with Regard to the two Points beforementioned, and treating her Grace's not implicitly subscribing, to the Opinion of her Mistress, as a Mark of Sauciness and Disrespect.

IT is evident, from what has been premis'd, that this Scheme could not take Place, till such Time as the *Whigs* had been some While in Power, the Enemy had made some Overtures of Peace, and the Queen began to be heartily weary of the War. Accordingly, we don't find any Practices to this Purpose, till about the Year 1707 ; till when all Things had run very smooth, my Lord *Marlborough* having not only been appointed Master of the Ordnance, but created a Duke ; and a few Years after the Decease of his only Son, the Marquis of *Blandford*, it being probable his Grace might not have any Heirs Male, to the End the Title might

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might never be extinct, and to perpetuate the Memory of his Services, this Honour was farther entail'd upon his Heirs, whether Male or Female, by an Act of Parliament expressly for that Purpose ; and the Honour and Manour of *Woodstock*, together with the House at *Blenheim*, and a Pension of 5000 *l. per Annum*, for ever, was annex'd to the said Honour and Dignity, for the better Support thereof.

IN the mean while, it may reasonably be suppos'd, his Lady continu'd in the same Degree of Favour as formerly ; though we do not find, any Thing remarkable that occur'd concerning her Grace, nor that she made any ill Use of her Influence, though undoubtedly many Places and Honours were granted during that Time, about which she had been consulted, as usual.

BUT, in the Year beforemention'd, the Plots of her Enemies being almost ripe for Execution, the Duchess discover'd some underhand Praetices, in Mrs. *Masham*, one of the Bed-chamber-Women to the Queen ; a Person, who was not only a near Relation, but ow'd all she had to her Grace ; who had taken Pity of her when in very wretched Circumstances, rais'd her Step by Step to what she then was, and always shew'd her particular Kindness. This her Grace's Generosity and Good-Nature, this grateful Lady, by the Direction of Mr. *Harley*, afterwards Lord *Oxford*, to whom she was likewise related by Marriage, was now endeavouring to retaliate, by the Supplanting and Overthrow of her Benefactress ; wherein, as will be seen in the Sequel, she prov'd but too successful.

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CAN it be imagin'd, however, by any One of common Sense, that a Man of such a deep Cunning as that *Machiavillian* Politician, would have given himself so much Trouble, only to undermine the Duchess of *Marlborough*? Or, that her Offices of Groom of the Stole, Mistress of the Robes, and Privy-Purse, could render her so obnoxious to him; or his Love to a Cousin's Wife carry him such Lengths, only to substitute her in one of those Places? No Man alive, certainly, can be so weak to believe this; Politicians don't use to employ their Time to so little Purpose. No, No, her Grace might have kept all her Offices 'till the Queen's Decease, before Mr. *Harley* would have concern'd himself in the least about her, had not his Schemes been much deeper laid; tho' it was not proper, at first, to let her Majesty into the Bottom of them; lest the whole Scene of Iniquity being laid open to her View at once, should have shock'd her, and defeated all his Designs; which were no less than to displace the Duke of *Marlborough*, (the most successful General that had ever been since *Alexander the Great*, in the Midst of his glorious Career) and to change the whole Ministry.

BUT it was impracticable to remove his Grace, whilst his Lady was so firmly settled in the Queen's Esteem and Affections; and almost equally impracticable to get the Treasurer cashier'd, whilst the Duke was at the Head of the Army; because his Grace had often declar'd, he could not accept the Command thereof with any Confidence, unless the Treasury was in his Hands; since he could not otherwise depend, upon having Remittances punctually made him. The

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first Step, therefore, was, to get the Favourite discarded, which was only to be done, by attacking the Queen on her blind Side, and, by that Means, undermining her Grace, in the Heart of her Royal Mistress. We have already taken Notice, that the Queen was very much bigotted to the *Tories*, or *Church-Party*, as they then affected to call themselves; thereby insinuating, that the *Whigs* were all Dissenters, and Enemies thereto; which *false Opinion*, as appears but too plainly by her Letters, had been but too carefully instill'd into, and imbib'd by her Majesty: She was also very weary of the War, and long'd for Peace.

THE Duchess of *Marlborough*, on the contrary, (as she declares herself) was by no Means prepossess'd in her Favour, but rather otherwise; add to this, that she was always averse to Flattery or Dissimulation; and tho' she had spent great Part of her Life at Court, had a Frankness and Sincerity in her Temper, very seldom to be found there. This appears evidently from the Character given of her, by Bishop *Burnet*, in his History, where he says expresly; " She was " thought proud and insolent on her Favour, " tho' she us'd none of the common Arts of a " Court to maintain it; for she did not beset the " Princess, nor flatter her. She stay'd much at " Home, and look'd very carefully after the " Education of her Children." The Duchess, also, was not for a Peace, unles on good Terms. This being the Case, nothing could be more easy, than for an artful Sycophant, to make a Handle of this Contrariety of Sentiments, in the Queen and her Favourite, and from thence to create first a Coldness, and then a Disgust, in her Majesty

jesty to the latter; which might soon be improv'd into an incurable Aversion, and, by Degrees, work'd up into an irreconcilable Breach: This was the *hopeful Scheme* laid down by Mr. Harley, to effect which, the *grateful* Mrs. *Masham* was to be the industrious Instrument.

IN order to this, every *Action*, every *Word*, nay every *Look* of her Grace, was to be misrepresented, and painted in the most *odious Colours*: Accordingly, if she declar'd her *Mind*, upon either of these Two Points, with her *usual Frankness*, and did not immediately give up her Opinion, without Conviction, it was *unpardonable Boldness* and *Disrespect*; and if she declin'd entering into any Controversy thereon, it show'd her *Contempt* of her *Majesty's Understanding*, and *Belief* of the *Superiority* of her own: If she *stay'd at Home*, as she often did, for Two or Three Days, and was not seen at Court, it was a *gross Failure in Duty*, and *Slight of her Sovereign*; if she *came thither*, and not conscious of any *Misdemeanour*, or suspicious of any ill *Practices* against her, did not *fawn* like a *Spaniel*, but behav'd on the same *Foot of Friendship* as she had been desir'd, it was *inexcusable Insolence*: If she spoke against *Passive-Obedience* and *Non-Resistance*, and declar'd for the Rights of the Subject, she was a *Republican*, and *wish'd well to Forty-One*; and, if she open'd her Mouth against a scandalous Peace, she *delighted in War*.

IT is not to be wonder'd at, if such Artifices, so *industriously insinuated*, and so *often repeated*, should, in Time, produce the desir'd Effect; especially, when the Person who was to be wrought upon, was a Princess of so many exalted

ted Virtues as the Queen; whose *honest Heart*, judging of all others by herself, and being equally *incapable* of *Falshood* or *Treachery*, and unacquainted with *Guile*, could not be upon her *Guard*; but lay open to all the Snares, her *infidious Flatterers* were pleas'd to spread for her. Besides, what render'd it almost impossible for her Majesty to avoid them, was, that as every one of her Motions, and every Action of hers were watch'd, when Mrs. *Massam* had prepar'd the Way, and wrought her up to a Resentment against the Duchess, by her artful Misrepresentations, and Suggestions; *Harley*, who was always at Hand on such Occasions, and of whom (from his servile Flattery, to which her Grace could never stoop,) she had conceiv'd, as was natural, a very good Opinion, was introduc'd to confirm her therein.

NOT to dwell any longer on these disagreeable Circumstances, which had so great an Effect, not only on the Affairs of this Nation, but of all *Europe*, and for which we smart, in some Measure, even to this Day, suffice it to observe, that all being ripe for Execution, a thorough Change of the Ministry was resolv'd on. The first Step to this was, the taking the Chamberlain's Staff from the Marquis of *Kent*, and substituting the Duke of *Sbrewsbury* in his Room; which was soon follow'd by the Dismission of the Earl of *Sunderland*, Secretary of State, and giving the Seals to the Lord *Dartmouth*.

About two Months after, the Lord *Godolphin* was likewise discarded, and the Treasury put in Commission; after which ensu'd immediately a Dissolution of the Parliament, and such a total Change of the Ministry, as is scarce to be found

in our History. In the mean while, the Duchess, though quite out of Favour, insomuch that she never appear'd at Court, enjoy'd all her Places; it was not thought proper as yet, perhaps, to disoblige her Spouse so much, as to take them from her, lest he should resign his Commission of Generalissimo; which, not having yet resolved on a Peace, upon any Terms, and not having agreed upon Conditions with the Enemy, the new Ministry either knew not how to dispose of, or could not find any that durst venture to accept, till it was determin'd there should be no more Action. However that might be, about a Year after, her Grace finding the Queen continu'd irreconcileable, and not being willing to wait till she was turn'd out, sent a Surrender of all her Offices, by the Duke, whereof her Majesty very readily accepted, and to crown all, soon after his Grace himself was turn'd out of all his Employments.

IN the mean while, virulent Libels against them both were publish'd almost every Week, wherein they were treated with an Indecency and Inveteracy till then never heard of; all the Acquisitions of the one, being represented as no better than the Fruits of Rapine and Robbery, whilst the other was describ'd as one of the infernal Furies, let loose upon the Kingdom, to be the Scourge of a sinful Nation. Nor was this all, for a Complaint was preferred against him in Parliament, because of some Presents made him by Sir *Solomon de Medina*, a Jew, on Account of his Contracts for providing the Army with Bread and Bread Wagons, and the Deduction of Two and a Half

per Cent. out of the Pay of the foreign Troops, towards furnishing Contingencies : And to such a Degree of Malice were they transported against him, that, although the former was prov'd to be a Perquisite given to the Commander in Chief ever since the *Revolution*, and the latter also was not only a customary Perquisite, but allow'd him by a Warrant from the Queen; his so doing was censur'd by the *House of Commons*, as *unwarrantable and illegal*, and the Attorney-General was order'd to prosecute him.

BUT, not content with this, as if the very Sight of his Grace tacitly reproach'd them with their Guilt, and they were not able to bear it, they contriv'd to make him yet more uneasy, by spiriting up vexatious Suits against him, on Account of the Building of *Blenheim-House*; though his Grace had never agreed with any one upon that Head, and all the Contracts were in her Majesty's Name ; insomuch that, upon the Death of his old invincible Friend, the Earl of *Godolphin*, who departed this Life much about the same Time, his Grace finding he was not to enjoy any Peace in *England*, was resolv'd to seek it elsewhere, and retire out of the Kingdom.

ACCORDINGLY, he set out for *Ostend*, about the Beginning of *November 1712*, from whence he proceeded by the Way of *Antwerp*, to *Maestricht*, and from thence to *Aix la Chapelle*; being receiv'd with all imaginable Honours, and treated with as much Respect as when at the Head of the Army, at every Place through which he pass'd, insomuch that to avoid such Ceremonies as much as possible he

he travell'd *incognito*, shunn'd all the great Towns, and went all the By-Roads he could. In the *February* following her Grace also set out for *Ostend*, to accompany her illustrious Spouse, who, on the News of her Arrival, met her as far as *Maestricht*, from whence he return'd with her to *Aix la Chapelle*. By this Time every Thing being prepar'd for their farther Progress, they made but a short Stay there in that City, but set out to visit their Principality of *Mindelheim*, and divers other Cities in *Germany*, being receiv'd with the greatest Honours, and Acclamations, at every Place through which they pass'd; to the no small Satisfaction, no doubt, of her Grace, who had not only the Pleasure of seeing the Dominions, whence her Spouse deriv'd his Title, but many of those Parts which had been eterniz'd by his glorious Actions.

AFTER this, we dont find any Thing remarkable concerning them, till their Return to *England*, which happen'd the very Day the Queen died, and upon Notice of their Approach to *London*, divers of the Nobility and Gentry set out to meet them, and attended them through the City, to their own House, as did also a Company of the City Grenadiers. This gave a Handle for fresh Calumnies, as if it had been a design'd Thing, and on Purpose to insult over the Ashes of her deceased Sovereign; the Truth was, however, they could not avoid it, Sir *Charles Cox* one of the Members for *Southwark* having resolv'd to meet him, at the Head of divers other eminent Tradesmen, on Horseback, and attend them through the Borough, after which they were

join'd by above Two Hundred Gentlemen and eminent Citizens, likewise on Horseback, together with the Grenadiers beforemention'd, the last of whom not only attended them with the Rest through the City, but would march before them to their own House.

IT is not to be suppos'd, but so agreeable a Turn in their Affairs, was very acceptable to the Duke and Duchess; to be almost hiss'd out of the Kingdom, and, in less than Two Years, receiv'd with almost general Acclamations, must be a Pleasure not to be resisted, by the most moderate Person living; but notwithstanding all the Aspersions of their Enemies, we dont find they shew'd any indecent Joy, or were guilty of any one unhandsome Expression, which would certainly have been remember'd had any such escap'd them; wherefore, we may reasonably conclude there was no Foundation for any such Rumour.

HOWEVER that be, soon after, upon the Arrival of the King, the Duke was again created Captain General, Colonel of the First Regiment of Guards, and Master of the Ordnance, besides being sworn into the Privy-Council. Thus was his Grace restor'd to his Honours; but, whether her Grace was quite weary of the Fatigues of a Court, or, whether having had the highest Employments under a Queen Regent, she would not accept of any under a Princess, we dont find her appearing in any public Scene afterwards. Neither do we find her illustrious Consort intermeddled much longer with Affairs of State; the last Act, of that Nature, he was concern'd in, being upon the Breaking out of the Rebellion, when he concerted

certed the *March* of the Troops, that were sent to oppose the Enemy, soon after which he retir'd from Business into the Country, and expired on the 16th of *June* 1722, at *Windsor-Lodge*, aged 73, full of Years and Glory.

It may reasonably be imagin'd, had his Grace not been so great a Man, and so every Way accomplish'd, the Loss of a Husband, with whom she had liv'd upwards of Forty Years, in the greatest Harmony, and who, even at his Death, had given her the greatest Proofs of his Love, must affect his Lady very deeply; tho', being of a heroick Spirit, she in Time overcame her Affliction.

To testify, however, as much as lay in her Power, her extraordinary Value for her Spouse, so entirely deserving, she resolv'd his Remains should be interr'd with all possible Pomp and Magnificence; nor, when his late Majesty, to shew his Esteem for his Grace's Memory, offer'd to defray the Expences of his Funeral, would she suffer any other to share with her in the Honour thereof, tho' the Charge amounted to several Thousand Pounds, but chearfully defray'd it all; thereby, at once, shewing her Love to the Deceased, and the Greatness of her own Soul, as well as giving the Lie to all the Reports, which had been industriously spread, of her insatiable Avarice.

HAVING thus solemniz'd his Obsequies, with a Splendour that had never been known before, in this Kingdom, at least for a Subject, her Grace seem'd to have turn'd her Thoughts wholly, upon regulating her own Actions in such a Manner, as should be worthy of the Widow of so extraordinary a Hero; and to have transferr'd the Love she bore

bore his Grace, to what had always been the principal Object of his Cares and Labours; namely, his Country.

Of this she gave many signal Instances, on divers Occasions; but in none more, than in her hearty Detestation of the late Minister, whom she never nam'd without the most sovereign Contempt, and whose Measures she always oppos'd to the utmost of her Power; never failing to exert her whole Influence, and Interest, to exclude all his Tools, at every Election; and to promote such as were determined to maintain the Honour and Liberties of *Great Britain*. To this End, her Grace neither spar'd any Pains, nor Expence; sufficiently shewing thereby, how much she had been wrong'd, and how greatly they had mistaken her Character and Temper, who had represented her as Fordidly covetous, and solely intent on heaping up Riches, though she had not afterwards the Soul to use them.

Of the Pains her Grace took on such Occasions, we shall give a remarkable and diverting Proof, which will shew, at the same Time, that she was not only indefatigable to gain her Point, but that she was Mistress of Abundance of Wit, Humour, and good Sense. It may not be amiss, however, to premise, that we know not whether the Person here referr'd to, was a Creature of the late Minister or not, or whether the following Transaction did not happen before his baleful and inauspicious Influence shed its Venom on all our Affairs.

Be this as it will, a certain *Irish Peer*, having set up as one of the Candidates to represent the Borough of *St. Albans*, whether he stood upon an Interest contrary to her Grace's, or

or whether he had any otherwise disoblig'd her, she was fully resolv'd, if possible, to get him thrown out; in order to which, not content with exerting her utmost Industry and Power, in Behalf of her own Friends, she had Recourse to the following Stratagem; which she imagined, might be yet more effectual, than any other Means she could use, to defeat the Pretensions of this Candidate, by gaining over all the Laughers to her Side.

THIS Nobleman, it seems, some Years before, had written a Comedy which he offer'd to the Stage, but could not prevail on the Managers, to consent to its being acted; altho' they afterwards repented it, having Reason to believe the Name alone of the Author would have procur'd them a full Audience for several Nights.

His Lordship, upon this, having, like most other Writers, a pretty good Opinion of his own Works, was at the Expence of Printing it; and whether it was from the Excellence of the Piece, (which was universally allow'd to be an Original in its Kind,) or, whether (as was given out by his Enemies,) the Criticks falling upon it too unmercifully, his Lordship had them all call'd in again, we will not pretend to determine; but from which of these soever it proceeded, thus much is certain, they grew so very scarce, on a sudden, that one of them was sold for a Guinea, and could hardly be got even at that Price.

As scarce as they were, however, her Grace found Means to procure one, and was at the Expence of having a second Edition of it printed off; which done, she not only caus'd some Hundreds of them to be distributed amongst
the

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the Freemen, and other Inhabitants of *St. Albans*, but employ'd divers Persons to cry it up and down the Streets, during the Time of Election; which, (as is reported,) rais'd such a Laugh against his Lordship, that he was not able to stand it, and thereby contributed more than any Thing else, to the throwing him out.

But, whatever might be her Grace's Inducement, for thus acting on this Occasion, whether it proceeded from a particular Spleen to his Lordship, or from a Publick Spirit, we are well assur'd, it was by the latter only she was influenc'd, of late Years, in her Behaviour at all Elections, where she had any Interest. Of this we need no more authentick Evidence, than the Returns for the Boroughs of *Woodstock* and *St. Albans*, where, it is well known, she could put in almost whom she pleas'd, for the three or four last Parliaments. However, if these should not be sufficient, to convince the most incredulous, the late noble and glaring Proofs thereof, that stare us in the Face, in her last Will, must certainly, we think, reduce the most obstinate to Silence; but, of this more hereafter, in its proper Place. We shall now proceed only, to say a few Words, with Regard to the several Aspersions, that have been cast, from Time to Time, upon her Grace, and industriously reviv'd of late, by her implacable Enemies; they may be reduc'd to these three Heads; *Avarice*, *Insolence*, and *Ingratitude*.

As to the former, it can't be deny'd, that innumerable Instances have been cited, and Abundance of *little Stories* told in Proof of it, but here it must be observ'd, these were all of Things

Things transacted during the Life of the Duke; and it would be as *unfair* to charge those upon her Grace, without evident Proof they were her own Act and Deed, as it would be to ascribe all her Husband's Victories to her. A strong Presumption, that none of them were with her Approbation, is, that ever since the Decease of her Spouse, hardly any Nobleman in the Kingdom sat down to a more splendid Table, or expended more in House-keeping; as we were credibly inform'd by One, who was above Thirty Years in the Family, a considerable Time before her Grace's Death: Add to this, the Alms-Houses she founded some Years ago at *St. Albans*, and the handsome Provision she made for the Maintenance and Support of them.

Now, was her Grace wanting in private Charities, as we have been well assur'd, tho' she took pretty good Care, her Beneficence should be bestow'd only upon proper Objects. But if any such offer'd, such as Persons of a good Character, who had once liv'd well, and were fallen to Decay, not thro' their own Extravagance, but by unavoidable Accidents, and were well recommended, they never met with a Repulse; nor did she put them off with a poor Pittance, but would frequently make them a Present of Fifty Pounds, or more, to set them in a Way of getting an honest Subsistance.

SHE was an utter Enemy, however, to Imposition or Fraud, of any Kind, and extraordinary sharp in detecting it; of which she gave the following remarkable Instance. Having bought the Materials for a Suit of Cloaths exceedingly rich, on some particularly-solemn Occasion, and having given them to the Mantua-Maker, whose Name, if we mistake not, was *Buda*, to be made

made up; when she came to try them on, whether her Grace thought them too scanty for the Quantity she had allow'd, or whether she was induc'd to it by any other Reason, we know not, but, being seiz'd with a strong Suspicion, the Woman had greatly wrong'd her, she immediately had Recourse to this Method to find it out.

Mrs. *Buda*, who was the Top-Woman of her Business in Town, and work'd for the Queen herself, had a Diamond Ring, which she usually wore, and was well known to her People at Home. Her Grace, whilst her Gown was fitting on, pretending to be exceedingly taken with the Fashion of this Ring, and Lustre of the Stone, desir'd the Owner to lend it her for a little While, that she might send it to her Jeweller, and have another made by it. The Mantua-Maker, little suspecting her Design, and proud of the Opportunity of obliging her Grace, but yet much more of the Commendations bestow'd upon her Diamond, very readily comply'd with her Grace's Request; upon which the Duchess going out of the Room, and calling for a proper Messenger, order'd him to go to Mrs. *Buda*'s House, ask for her Fore-Woman, and bid her send the Remainder of the Duchess of *Marlborough*'s Cloaths, producing that Ring, as a Token he came from her Mistrefs.

THE poor Woman, not apprehending any Harm, but believing Mrs. *Buda* had got a Customer for the Stuff, which was worth some Pounds, and was going to sell it, fell immediately into the Snare, and deliver'd to the Man a Piece, amounting to about two Yards, which he brought directly to her Grace. Our Readers will much easier imagine, than we can describe, the Confusion of the unfortunate Mantua-Maker

ker, when the Duchess return'd her the Ring, and at the same Time shew'd her the Piece of Stuff she had purloin'd; let it suffice, therefore, to say, this Discovery of so notorious a Fraud, blasted her Character to all Intents and Purposes, and oblig'd her to leave off her Busines.

PROCEED we now to the next Article, where-with she is charg'd, namely, her treating the Queen with *Insolence*: Upon which we shall ob-serve, *first*; that this Charge is only brought a-gainst her by her avow'd Enemies, who were e-vidently in a Design to supplant her; which they could not hope to do any other Way, than by misrepresenting all her Words and Actions, as also, that Ill-will speaks well of no One. *Secondly*, that it has already been observ'd, and confirm'd from Bishcp. *Burnet*, that she was no Flatterer; to which the Prelate adds, she was *violent* and *sudden* in her Resolutions, and *impe-tuous* in her Way of Speaking: Now, does not every One see, how easy it was for an artful and designing Person, to work up such a Temper in-to some warm Expressions, which when weigh'd in the Scale of Prejudice, might be misconstru'd *insolent*, tho' they were, in Reality, only the Overflowings of wrong'd Innocence, and a Na-ture impatiet of injurious Reflections? Then, as to the *third* Charge of *Ingratitude*, which is supported only by her coming thro' the City, in a Sort of Triumph, within a Day or Two after the Death of her Royal Mistress, and some Pas-sages, in the Account of her Conduet, which seem to bear hard upon the Memory of her Ma-jesty, we answer; the former has been shown, not to have been by the Desire and Approbation either of her Grace, or the Duke; besides that, if it had, she could not be blam'd for it, as be-ing

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ing under the Direction of her Spouse; and for the latter, if they were necessary for her own Vindication, she was certainly excusable in relating them. But, to silence effectually all Calumnies of this Nature for the future, let any One read the Inscription, under the Statue, erected by the Duchess, to the Memory of her Royal Mistress, at *Blenheim*, and then let him charge her with Ingratitude if he can; since, sure it is, the Character there given of her Majesty by her Grace, and avouch'd on her own Knowledge, does more Honour to that amiable and truly-deserving Princess, than all the Encomiums that were ever written on her.

But the *most stupid* and *senseless* of all the Aspersions cast upon her Grace, is one of a late Date, namely, her sucking divers Women to Death. Could one imagine that so idle, so ridiculous a Tale, could gain Credit with any One, a Degree above an Ideot? Does not every One see, from the Nature of the Thing, that no Woman could be compell'd to let the Duchess have the Use of her Breast, even for Half an Hour; and whoever did so, it must be by her own Choice, and for no longer a Term than she pleas'd herself. But, to overthrow the whole Story from the very Foundation, we are well assur'd, her Grace never had Recourse to the Breast of any Woman. Having thus endeavour'd to do Justice to the Memory of this illustrious Lady, and set all her Actions in a true Light; we shall only add, That she departed this Life, full of Years and Honours, at her House in the *Friery*, on *Thursday, October 18,*

1744.

REMARKS.

REMARKS
ON THE
Last Will and Testament
Of HER GRACE,
S A R A H,
Late Duchess Dowager of *Marlborough*.

AS her Grace, *Sarah*, late Duchess Dowager of *Marlborough*, was undoubtedly not only the most illustrious, but the most wealthy Subject, of her Sex, in this or any other *Christian* Nation, and as her Will has, of late, been pretty much the reigning Topick in all Companies; we presume, it will not be unacceptable to the Publick, if we subjoin some Remarks upon a Piece, which has already made so much Noise in the World, and may possibly occasion more.

THE first Thing we shall observe thereon is, that it seems very odd to us, the Lord *Godolphin* should be desir'd, in the very first Paragraph, to take upon himself the Trouble, of directing the Removal of the Duke of *Marlborough*'s Re-

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mains to *Blenheim*; when, for aught appears to us, her Grace has neither left Six-pence to his Lordship, or either of his Daughters. As to the Direction about the Privacy of her Funeral, we think it an evident Proof of her good Sense, and Contempt of Pageantry.

NO R do we imagine, any Fault will be found, by any discreet Person, with her Grace's having so settled the Bulk of her Estate in Trust, that it may be next to impossible for her Grandson, the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; or his Children, (to whom she has devis'd it) to alienare or confound it; at least, for any longer than the Term of their Natural Lives, to the End it may always remain in the Family, and they may not be reduc'd to *prostitute their Honour or Consciences*, for a *sordid and precarious Subsistence and Dependence*, upon any Court or Government whatever.

AND of such a *mean Dependence*, it is highly observable, her Grace had such an *utter Abhorrence*, that, to prevent it as far as possible, she has ty'd them up from accepting of any Place, or Employment, under the Government, on no less a Penalty, than the Forfeiture of their whole Interest in her Estate. Nay, whether it was that her Grace was apprehensive, that the said Grandson, thro' his Good-Nature, should bring himself under any Incumbrances, by becoming bound for any one, or whatever else was the Reason, she has ty'd him up from it, on no less than the same Penalty.

IT has been Matter of no small Surprize, to most intelligent Persons, upon the Perusal of her Grace's Will, to find so much Notice taken therein of her Grandson, the Honourable *John Spencer*,

Spencer, Esq; and his Children, so little of his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough*, or his Children, and not any at all of divers others.

VARIOUS have been the Causes assign'd for a Partiality so unaccountable; whereas one would have imagin'd, her Respect for the Person and Family, which was to keep up the Title, would have induc'd her Grace, so immensely rich as she was, to make a considerable Addition, to the Estate that was to go along with the Honour: And the Publick have been more surprised hereat, as his Grace is allow'd by all, to be a Nobleman of as amiable a Character, as any one whatever in *Great Britain*; and as she could not be insensible, his Generosity, Honour, and Good-Nature, had brought him under some Inconveniences, from which, it would have been highly commendable in her Grace to have extricated him.

THIS extraordinary Partiality, then, has greatly astonisht, and indeed, griev'd the Generality of Mankind; who are at a Loss to conjecture, what Step of a Lord so every Way deserving, and whose late noble Behaviour has so justly endear'd him to the Nation, could have so much disoblig'd his Grandmother, as to draw upon him such Usage. In short, we should ourselves be as much at a Loss as they, to account for this, were it not that from some other concurring Circumstances in the Will, we believe, we have found a Key to this Mystery; and which is this.

IT is well known, her Grace had an inconceivable Aversion to, and the most sovereign Contempt of the late M-----r, to which, no Doubt, his Insolence, when in Power, exclusive of his

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weak and scandalous Adm----n, not a little contributed; she never mention'd him but with Scorn, nor could bear, or bear, with any Patience, of divers Noblemen, of the *first Rank*, daily cringing at his Levee, and doing his *scandalous Drudgery*, for a *Place, Pension*, or perhaps a *Ribbon*. It cannot be deny'd, also, that the Duchess was a Woman of a *very haughty Spirit*; if she could not bear this, therefore, in Strangers, whose Conduct could no Ways reflect any Disgrace upon herself, or her Family, it may easily be believ'd, it must affect her in a far different Manner, to see one, any Ways related to her, contributing to swell the Pride of that living *Colossus*, and yet much more, when it was one of her *immediate Descendants*, and *that One*, who inherited the Title, and was to keep up the Honour of the *Marlborough Family*.

THAT such-a-one, we say, should stoop to dance Attendance at the Levee of a Man, whose *whole Rise and Significancy* was owing to his having been a *thorough Party-Man*, (one who would *plunge thro' Thick and Thin*) and was no more than an *useful Tool* in the Hands of the *Whig Leaders*, gall'd her Grace's Pride past Sufferance; accordingly, there is great Reason to believe, she never forgave, the Duke's accepting an Employment, during his M----ry: It is believ'd, likewise, that his marrying into the Family of the Lord *Trevor*, who was made a Peer immediately after her Husband's Disgrace, and, if we mistake not, one of the *Twelve*, was not very agreeable to her.

IN Effect, we remember very well it was the common Talk of the Town, upon his Grace's accepting an Employment, and voting with the Court,

Court, in some Instances, that it would lose him her Grace's Favour; and it is very observable, that the Dukes of *Montague* and *Newcastle*, and the Earl of *Godolphin* having done the same, have little or no Notice taken of them in the said Will, which cannot well be ascrib'd to any other Reason. She had seen Mr. *W----le* an *humble Dependant* upon, and *Creature* of her Husband, and could noWays stomach, the seeing a Grandson, who bore the same Title, reduc'd, in his Turn, to be a Dependant upon him; it were greatly to be wish'd, however, that her Grace had not carried her Resentment with her to the Grave.

To say the Truth, we are afraid, the Duchess was somewhat *too impatient*, and had a little *too quick a Sense* of the *least Contradiction* to her Will; and that she expected *too absolute* a Submission to all her Desires, especially in those who had any Dependance on her; otherwise, the going once contrary thereto, could never have seem'd an Offence of so deep a Dye, as never to be forgiven; above all, when the Duke had so handsomely atton'd for this Transgression, if it was one, and had so *effectually vindicated* his Character, by boldly *asserting the Honour* of his Country, in Defiance to those *abject Sycophants*, who would subject the *British Lyon* to the *Insults* of the *H----r Hackney*; and shewing to all the World, that if they wanted Slaves, they must not look for them in the *Marlborough-Family*. It can, therefore, never be enough lamented, that his Grace's making this one little Slip, should so far forfeit the Favour of the Duchess, that it was never to be retriev'd; tho' it is very evident, by the Penalty annex'd in the Will, to

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the like Behaviour in her Grandson, the Hon. *John Spencer*, Esq; and his Son, which, (as was observ'd before) is no less than the Loss of her whole Estate, that she look'd upon it as the *most heinous and unpardonable Crime* they could commit.

BUT, not to dwell any longer upon this Article, we shall next observe, concerning the Will, that after an Enumeration of the several Estates, whereof her Grace dy'd possess'd, in no less than twelve different Counties; and after vesting them, in Trust, in the Hands of *Hugh, Earl of Marchmont, and Beversham Filmer, of Lincoln's-Inn*, Esq; for the Uses therein after nam'd, her first Bequest is, an Annuity of 20,000*l.* a-Year, clear of all Deductions, to her Great Grandson, Master *John Spencer*, Son of the Hon. *John Spencer*, Esq; during the Life of his Father, from the Time that he attains to the Age of Twenty Years.

THIS Bequest of her Grace's, we believe, will hardly be objected against by any one, it being plainly design'd by her, merely to preserve her said Great Grandson, when he comes to Man's Estate, from a *slavish Dependance*, even upon his Father; which, to us, is another *convincing Proof, how much she abhor'd that servile Vassalage*, which compels a Man to *prostitute*, both his *Understanding and Principles*, to the *arbitrary Commands of a profligate and imperious Master.*

IN short, from this, and several other Circumstances, we will venture to pronounce, that whatever Failings her Grace had, (as no one is without some) she was certainly actuated by a *Greatness of Mind*, which would have done Honour

nour to the ancient *Greeks* and *Romans*; and that even the *Severity*, wherewith she treated the Duke of *Marlborough*, seems to have flow'd from the *same Principle*, by which the *first Brutus* was animated, when he condemn'd his *two Sons* to Death, for endeavouring to *re-establish Tyranny*. Whether this was not carrying Things to too great an *Excess*, we will not pretend to dispute; we know there have been many Persons, who have approv'd of the Behaviour of *Brutus*, in this Particular.

IN Effect, from the whole Tenor of the Duchess's Conduct, since the Decease of her illustrious Spouse, it plainly appears, that she had the *Welfare* of these Kingdoms *very much at Heart*, and that the *Love* of her Country was the *governing Principle* of her Soul; accordingly, being fully convinc'd, that the late M----r was endeavouring the *Destruction* of *Great Britain*; and that his Measures were not only *weak* and *dishonourable*, but *pernicious* and *fatal*; that they not only *tended to*, but had in a Degree *accomplish'd*, the *entire Subversion* of *our happy Constitution*; and that, if he *really intended* to bring in the *Pretender*, he could not serve him *more effectually*, than by *aggrandizing FRANCE*; *depressing* the *House of AUSTRIA*; *sacrificing* the *true Interest* of these Realms, to a *poultry German Province*, and thereby *alienating the Hearts* of the People from their *Sovereign*; that, in a Word, tho' he had so much *engross'd the Care and Confidence*, of his R---l Master, by humouring his Passions, at the *Expence* of his Honour and Safety, he was no better than a *Viper in his Bosom*, which, if *not forc'd away*, or *destroy'd*, would *sting him to Death*: Being convinc'd, we say, of

all this, she mortally hated, and constantly oppos'd him to the utmost of her Power; insomuch that, (however she has been *falsly branded* with the *Imputation of Avarice*) she was not content with acting like some of our *modern Patriots*, that we could name, who will *Speech it*, indeed, very finely in the House, but neither take the *least Trouble*, nor give one *Farthing*, to support those, who have *ruin'd themselves*, and *risqu'd Life and Liberty* in the *same Cause*; on the contrary, she would spare neither Pains nor Expence, as was before observed, to exclude all his *Mercenaries* from a Seat in Parliament.

AN D, so hearty was her Grace in her Zeal, for the *Honour* and *Prosperity* of *Old England*, that she look'd upon every one, who accepted of a Post under his *wretched Administration*, and voted in Concert with him, as *engag'd*, though perhaps thoughtlessly, in the *same detestable Design*, and thereby *partaking*, in some Measure, of his *Guilt*. We would not have said so much upon this Head, but in Order to extenuate, as far as possible, her Grace's Unkindness to a young Lord, not only so near in Blood to her, but so much and so deservedly, the Darling of the People; and who has so *worthily supported* the Title, *Honour*, and *Dignity*, of his *Great Predecessor*: We would, not therefore, be mistaken, as pretending entirely to vindicate her, in this Respect, for we do not; but wish, as much as any one, she had abated of her Severity on this Occasion.

THE next Article that occurs in the Will, is pretty much of the same Nature with the foregoing, only that it is in Favour of the Duke of *Marlborough's Children*; being the Bequest of

an Annuity of Three Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* clear of all Deductions, to the eldest Son of his Grace, for the Time being, during the Life of his Father, from the Day of his attaining to the Age of Twenty Years. Upon this we shall not make any new Observations, since it evidently proceeded from the same Principle as the former; only that it is bequeath'd to such eldest Son, upon the Penalty of forfeiting the whole Benefit thereof, not only for himself, but for any other Son; or, in Case of Failure of such, for any Grandson, who, after the Decease of his Grace, shall be next Heir to the Title and Estate of the late Duke of *Marlborough*, if such Son or Grandson, shall, during the Life of the present Duke, do or suffer, or covenant or agree to do, or suffer any Act, whereby any of the Estate, Remainders, Limitations, or Uses, express'd in the late Duke's Will, may be defeated or barr'd.

We cannot help thinking this Clause exceeding hard, since it is, in Effect, punishing the *Innocent* for the *Guilty*, which is one of the *greatest Hardships* in the Case of *Treason*; besides that there seems to us to be something *particularly cruel* intended by it; namely, the preventing a Son or Grandson's doing a *good-natur'd Action* for a Father, or Grandfather, which is carrying Resentment even farther than the Grave. We would not willingly be guilty of passing a *rash Censure*; but, we must confess, we cannot help looking upon it in this Light; to which we are the more induc'd, by a subsequent Clause, relating to the Hon. *John Spencer*, Esq; by which he is ty'd up, on Penalty of forfeiting his whole Estate, from becoming bound, with or for any Person or Persons whatever, unto any Person or Persons,

Persons, for any Sum or Sums of Money, or for any Debt or Debts of any Person whatever.

We cannot help thinking, this Clause was inserted, purely to prevent Mr. Spencer's doing a generous Action, for a Brother every Way deserving; in which Opinion we are still more confirm'd, by the particular Care taken in the Will, that *Marlborough-House* may never come into the Possession of the present Duke; though, we believe, every one but her Grace, thinks it would have been *highly reasonable* as well as *absolutely proper*, that a House which bears the Name of the Family, and is suitable only for a Man of the first Rank, should have gone with the Title; and what renders it yet the *more cruel* and *aggravating*, is that, of all the numerous Seats, whereof she has dy'd possess, she has not left him one, for the House at *Blenheim* was annex'd by Parliament to the Honour; nay, even such a poor Pittance, as the Furniture of that House, was thought too much, unless his Grace will give up the Furniture of another Seat of his own, call'd *Althrop-House*, (which Seat, upon his entering into Possession of *Blenheim*, devolves on his Brother) to go along with the said Seat to his said Brother. As to the next Article, which impowers that Son of his Grace, who shall be possess'd of the before-mention'd Annuity, in Case he marries during his Father's Life, and attains to the Age of One-and-Twenty, to settle upon his Lady a Jointure of Fifteen Hundred Pounds *per Ann.* clear of all Deductions, we believe it will not be held unreasonable, or objected against by any one; only we can't help observing, we think it somewhat surprizing, her Grace should limit the Settlement to.

to such a Sum, or think that a sufficient Allowance for one, who may probably come to be Mother to the Duke of *Marlborough*, for the Time being, in Case she arrives at that Honour.

THE next Article in the Will, makes void the Appointment of this Jointure, in Case the said eldest Son survives his Father the present Duke, and comes himself to the Title, Dignity, and Estate; the Reason of which may probably be, because it will then be in his Power, to settle on his Lady a Jointure of equal or yet greater Value out of that Estate. And the following Clause provides, that it shall not be in the Power of any eldest Son, to charge her Grace's Estates, with the Payment of more than one such Jointure at a Time; so that if one such Son marries, and dies before his Father, leaving a Widow behind him, it shall not be in the power of the next Son, though he should also marry during the Duke's Life, to charge her Grace's Estates with a like Jointure, during the Life of his Brother's Widow; which we think, considering the immense Wealth the Dutches left behind her, and has bequeath'd to the Younger Brother and his Descendants, was being something strait-laced in her Beneficence to the Family of the Elder.

THE seven subsequent Articles contain little more than a Specification of divers Estates bequeath'd in Trust for the Use of the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; and his Heirs, with several Restrictions, tending to render it impossible for them to alienate or confound all or any part of them, at least for more than the several Natural Lives of each of them: Against which prudent and salutary Provision, we believe, no

Person

Person of Discretion will make any Objection; but on the contrary, will be rather apt to wish, the same had been done with Regard to the Estates of every Nobleman and Gentleman of Distinction throughout the Kingdom; not only to enable them to keep up the Honour of their respective Families, but to preserve them from, and set them above, the *Temptation of meanly and sordidly selling themselves and their Posterity, and scandalously bartering away the Rights and Liberties of their Countrymen for a present Crust.* An Action so *very stupid, as well as base, that it degrades them even below the Level of Dogs;* who have *more Sense and Honesty, than to accept a Bribe, from the Hands of a Thief, or to keep Silence when the House is beset with Rogues!* In Effect, had all great Estates been settled in the same Manner, and held by the like Tenure, we should not now have been *bewailing our ruined Country, or have seen such weak, destructive, profligate and desperate Measures pur-su'd, in open Defiance of the Sense and Complaints of all the honest Part of the Nation.*

But, to return from whence we have digressed; the next Article in the Will, relates only to a Messuage in the County of Oxford, formerly belonging to Sir *Cecil Bishop, Bart.* and provides that the Goods and Furniture therein shall be deem'd as Heir-Looms, that is, shall not be remov'd thence, but go along with the House to the next Possessor. The following Clause refers solely to a Leasehold Estate in *Romney-Marsh, in the County of Kent,* belonging to her Grace's Mother, and which she likewise bequeaths, in Trust, in the same Manner with the rest, to her Grandson, the Hon. *John Spencer, Esq;*

Esq, and his Heirs, upon the same Conditions, and with the same Restrictions as the others.

THE only Observation, we shall make on this Paragraph, is, that it is a glaring Proof, Mrs. *Jenyns*, her Grace's Mother, was not a Person either of such mean Extraction and Education, or in such miserable Circumstances, that she should be reduc'd to earn a wretched Livelihood, by such *infamous* and *scandalous* as well as *wicked* Methods, as those *profligate* Writers, the Authors of the *New Atalantis*, the History of *Zarah*, and divers other anonymous Writers have given out: And that it is a Thing not to be believ'd, that any Woman, above the Temptation of Want, should turn *Sorceress* and *Bawd* upon any other Consideration; especially, when it is not pretended, there was any Crown'd Head in the Case, on whose Account she might be imagin'd to stoop so low, in order to gratify their Ambition in the Promotion of her Family. For, though it is very certain, both King *Charles* and his *Brother*, were great Admirers of the Ladies, and though it is as certain that both the Daughters of Mrs. *Jenyns* rose to be Women of the First Quality, it is equally certain, it was never suggested, by her worst Enemies, that she ever assisted either of those Monarchs in their Amours, or that their Daughters ow'd their good Fortune, and Advancement to any such *dishonourable* and *ignominious* Means.

OF the next Paragraph, we shall say no more than that it is a Bequest of the foregoing, as also is that which follows, of another Leasehold Estate in the County of *Buckingham*, in Trust for the Honourable *John Spencer*, &c. on the

the Conditions and with the Restrictions aforesaid. The two subsequent Paragraphs contain only a Direction to her Trustees, to renew as often as Occasion shall require, and on reasonable and equitable Terms, the Leases of all her Leasehold Estates ; which prudent Direction seems to be inserted, not only to prevent the Loss of the said Estates, by the Expiration of the Leases, but also to hinder any future Trustees, from taking Advantage of the Persons for whose Benefit the said Estates were devis'd in Trust, by pretending, (as is too usual with such Gentry,) to have paid an exorbitant Price for such Renewal.

THE Contents of about the twenty subsequent Articles are only a Bequest of her Grace's Estates and Mansion-House at *Wimbledon*, together with the Leasehold Rectory and Parsonage of the same Place, and the Appurtenances thereof, late the Estates of Sir *Theodore Janssen*, in Trust as aforesaid, for her aforesaid Grandson, *John Spencer*, and his Heirs, upon the same Conditions and Restrictions as before ; as also a Direction about not removing from the said Mansion-House any of the Goods, Pictures and Furniture, except such as Her Grace otherwise disposes of by Will, and for taking an Inventory of the same, from every several Possessor ; reserving only a Power for her said Grandson, *John Spencer*, Esq; and his Son, to grant Leases for the Term of One and Twenty Years, of any Part or Parts of the said Estate, except the Mansion-House, with the Buildings and Gardens thereunto belonging, for which said Leases they are not to take any Sum or Sums of Money, or any other Thing
by

by Way of Fine or Income, but are to let them at the best improv'd Rent that can reasonably be obtain'd ; as also to see that they contain a Clause of Re-entry in Case of Non-payment of Rent, and that the Lessee, or Lessees, seal and deliver Counter-parts of such Lease, or Leases. The only Observation, we shall make upon these, is, that her Grace seems to have bethought herself of all possible Contingencies, and to have provided Remedies against all of them ; as also, that the Provisoes about granting Leases seem design'd for two Ends ; the one for preventing the often changing of Tenants, and the other, which stipulates no Fine shall be taken, to hinder the present Possessor from prejudicing his Successor, to make a present Benefit to himself, by granting Leases at a small Rent, for a large Fine.

THE two next Clauses in the Will, we have already taken some Notice of, as being extremely remarkable ; in tying up the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; her Grace's Grandson, and his Eldest Son *John Spencer, jun.* Esq; from accepting, either directly themselves, or by any Person, or Persons, in Trust for them, from any King or Queen of this Realm, any Pension, or any Office, or Employment, Civil or Military, (except the Rangership and Office, or Place, of Keeper of *Windsor* Great Park, and the Rangership and Office, or Place of Keeper of the Little Park at *Windsor*, upon Penalty of forfeiting her whole Estate to them bequeathed, as much as if they were actually dead.

IT is evident this was done purely to maintain them in a State of Independence, and prevent their

80 *Remarks on the Will of the*

their being tempted, by any Consideration whatever, to give up the Rights and Liberties of their Country ; and indeed it is veay certain, her Grace has provided so effectually against this, that we question, whether it would not be much safer for those Gentlemen, to become *Pensioners* to *France*, than to his present Majesty and his Successors. Against these Clauses, therefore we shall be far from making any Objection, but should rather wish, there were similar Articles inserted in the Writings, by which every Nobleman in *England* holds his Estate ; had this been the Case, we are apt to believe, we should not to our great Amazement and Dissatisfaction, have seen the Pension Bill so often thrown out, after it had pass'd the *House of Commons*, by Persons, whom, it was evident, it cou'd not any ways affect, and who consequently were not *visibly concern'd*, even in the most distant Manner, to intermeddle therewith : We cou'd also wish they had been made yet more extensive, and that they had been equally ty'd up from accepting of any *Title of Honour*, even so much as a *Ribbon*, for which we have before now more than one barter away their *Principles* and *Honesty*.

BUT there is another Clause, relating to the Honourable *John Spencer*, Sen. of which we cannot by any Means approve ; namely, that which ties him up from becoming bound for any Sum or Sums, on any Account whatever, with or for any Person or Persons whatever, because his Country could not any ways have been affected thereby ; neither could any Sum, however large, (for which any one could *in Conscience* have desir'd him to become Surety,) done

have done him any considerable Detriment, not even had it amounted to 100,000*l.* since his immense Estate, with any tolerable Management, would have cleared even that Incumbrance in Ten Years, almost without being felt.

WE come now to the Clause relating to the Disposal of *Marlborough-House*, whereof her Grace died possess'd by a Lease from the Crown for Fifty Years, commencing from the Tenth of *July* last past, whereof we shall only observe, that she has bequeath'd it first, for the Residue of that Term, in Trust, for her Grandson the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; and, in Case of his Decease, in Trust, for the Right Honourable *George Spencer*, Esq; commonly called Marquis of *Blandford*, eldest Son and Heir Apparent of his Grace *Charles Duke of Marlborough*, for the Remainder of that Term, and, in Case of his Decease, and leaving Heirs Male, to his Sons after him, and to their Heirs Male; and in Failure of such Issue to the Right Honourable *Charles Spencer*, commonly call'd Lord *Charles Spencer*, and his Male Issue, for the said Remainder; and in Failure of such Issue, to any other Son or Sons of *Charles Duke of Marlborough*, and their Male Issue for the Residue of the said Term; and in Failure of such Issue, to *John Spencer, Jun.* and his Male Issue; and in Failure of such Issue, in Trust for the Person, or Persons, who, for the Time being, shail be intituled unto, and inherit, the Honour and Title of Duke or Duchess of *Marlborough*, (other than, and except the said *Charles Duke of Marlborough*.)

BEFORE we proceed any farther upon this Head, we cannot help taking Notice, we think there is something so exceeding hard therein, especially in the last Parenthesis, that we want Words to express our Thoughts of it; and could wish, for the Honour of her Grace, for whose great Qualities we have the highest Esteem, it had never been inserted, as it bears evident Marks of an *unforgiving Temper*, which must very much derogate from her Character. In Effect, this *invidious Distinction*, this *grating Exception*, of the present Duke personally by Name, not only is an evident Proof she carried her Resentment even beyond the Grave, which does not redound to her Credit, but reflects considerably on *her Prudence*; in suffering this Mark of her Implacability to remain in her Will, as an *indelible Reproach* to her Memory: And what renders this the *more weak*, and *inexcusable*, in her Grace, is, that it partly verifies the *bitter Reflection*, cast upon her by the Author of the *Other Side of the Question*, that *she never forgave an Injury, nor acknowledg'd a Benefit*. Besides, it does not shew a due *Regard* to the *Ashes* of her *illustrious Husband*, in thus giving such an *opprobrious Exclusion* to his first immediate Male Heir, from that House which that Hero honour'd most with his Residence, as if the very Edifice would have contracted a Taint from that his Successor's being suffer'd to dwell therein. In short, this Clattle is so *very extraordinary*, that we dont know any Thing comes up to it, unless it be the Direction of Sir Sampson Legend, in *Love for Love*, to his Lawyer,

yer, when about to draw the Writings for the Settlement of his Estate, to take Care not to leave any *Flaw* therein, wherein there might be a *Possibility* of its descending to his *Son Ben, the Sailor*, who had *disobliged* him, though there were *no Way of his Coming to it*; but by the *North East Passage*.

To return, from whence we have digress'd, there are also some other *Provisoes*, relating to the Bequest of this House, which we cannot help thinking *somewhat odd*, and which we should have believ'd to have been *Oversights*, had we not something similar thereto, in one of the succeeding Articles. They are as follows; *first*, that if her Grace's Grandson, the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; who is to be the first Possessor thereof, disposes of or departs from the Possession of any Part thereof, by *Leafe, Sale, Exchange, or Loan*, on any Account whatever, except the little House, now inhabited by the Earl of *Clancarty*, then, and in that Case, her Grace's Executors are directed and order'd to dispose of the same to the best Purchaser, for the Residue of the said Term: And, *Secondly*, that if the Marquis of *Blandford*, or any one of his Sons, or his Brother, the Lord *Charles Spencer*, or any of his Sons, in Case of its coming into their Possession, should do the same, or if any Son hereafter to be born of the aforesaid *Charles Duke of Marlborough*, shall during the Life of the said Duke of *Marlborough*, do or suffer, or covenant or agree to do or suffer any *Act*, whereby all or any of the Estates, Remainders, Limitations, or *Uses*, in the late Duke of *Marlborough's Will*, may be

defeated or barred, Then, and in any of these Cases, the Bequest of this House to them, is to cease and become void, to all Intents and Purposes. Now, what we think somewhat odd, in these respective Clauses, is, *first*, that what is the Act and Deed of the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; should be made to affect the Marquis of *Blandford*, and his Heirs, or the Lord *Charles Spencer*, and his Heirs, who can no ways be suppos'd to have been consulted therein: And *Secondly*, that the Act and Deed of the Marquis of *Blandford*, should be made to affect the Lord *Charles Spencer*, and his Heirs; which is, as was observ'd before, on a like Occasion, is downright punishing the Innocent for the Guilty, and not only visiting the Sins of the Fathers upon the Children, but upon the Collateral Branches.

ALL that remains to be observ'd, upon this Head, is, that, in Case of such Forfeiture, by any of the Duke of *Marlborough*'s Heirs, the said House is to go to *John Spencer, Junior*, Esq; and his Heirs, and in Failure of such Issue, to be sold to the best Purchaser. But, in Case of no such Forfeiture by any of the said Tenants for Life, then her Grace's Executors are order'd and directed, from Time to Time, as Occasion shall serve, to apply for, and do their Endeavours to renew the said Lease of the said *Marlborough-House*, with all its Appurtenances. The two next Articles relates to another Lease from the Crown, whereof her Grace likewise stood possess'd, and which she likewise bequeath'd to her Executors, *in Trust*, in the same Manner as before, for the Owner and

and Proprietor, for the Time being, of the said *Marlborough-House*, to go along therewith, and be subject to the same Conditions and Limitations.

THE three subsequent Articles relate to such of the Goods and Furniture in *Marlborough-House*, as, being her Grace's own, tho' bought in the Duke's Life-Time, she was impower'd by his Will to dispose of, and which she bequeath'd to the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; her Grandson.

THE three following Articles relate in like Manner to such Goods, Furniture, and Pictures, as were her Grace's own, in *Blenheim-House*, which she dispos'd of, (and the only Bepuest to his Grace it is) in Favour of her Grandson *Charles Duke of Marlborough*: And even this, as if she had thought it too much for him, is only bequeath'd him upon this express Condition, that his Grace does not remove any of the Goods from *Altbrop-House*, but suffer them to be enjoy'd by her Grandson the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; and his Heirs, unless the Goods in the latter exceed in Value those of the former, in which Case his Grace is allow'd to remove Part of these Goods, &c. leaving only behind what shall be equivalent to those of *Blenheim*.

UPON this *extraordinary Legacy* we cannot help observing, that we much question whether it is to be match'd in any Will under the Copes of Heaven, since the Whole of it amounts to no more than this, the Exchange of the Goods in one House for those in the other, and is no farther an Act of Kindness,

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than as it may prevent the battering and spoiling the said Goods, by pulling them down and removing them; which is of as much Advantage to Mr. *Spencer*, as to the Duke, and which, we verily believe, was the only Inducement to her Grace to insert it: For, it is expressly provided, in the last Clause, that if the Duke refuses to perform the Condition, the Goods in *Blenheim-House* shall go to the former. The next Article relates only to the Goods of the Mansion-House at *Holywell* in *St Albans*, which her Grace directs shall always go with the said House.

THE seven succeeding Paragraphs relate to the Rangership and Office of Keeper of *Windsor* Great and Little Parks, with the Houses and Lodges belonging to each of them, and the Furniture therein; which her Grace devises for so long Term as she is vested therein, the Rangership of the former, &c. with the Goods, Furniture, and Pictures in the chief Lodge, to her Grandson, the Hon. *John Spencer*, Esq; and his Executors, &c. and the Rangership of the latter, with the Goods, &c. in the chief Lodge, to *John Spencer, jun.* Esq;

THE two next Clauses contain a Gift of the House in *Dover-street*, with the Appurtenances and Ground thereunto belonging, and whereon it is built, which her Grace lately purchas'd of the Trustees of the late Countess of *Westmoreland*, to her Granddaughter, the D. of *Manchester*, her Heirs and Assigns: As also, in the like Manner, of the Goods, Chattles, and Furniture in the said House and Premises. With this Bequest, to a Lady of so much Desert, we dare say no one

find Fault, but would rather wish it more considerable; only the World can't help being surpriz'd, whilst Bequests of such prodigious Value are devis'd to one Grandson and his Heirs, that so many others, *equally near* in Blood, should be left *entirely unregarded*, and especially as they are Ladies, and of an *uncommon Merit*, and *unblemish'd Character*.

THE two Paragraphs next ensuing relate to a Leasehold Piece of Ground with the Messuage, and Erections thereon built, together with all the Appurtenances thereto in *Grosvenor-street*, which her Grace bequeaths, for the Term of her said Lease, together with the Goods, Chattels, and Furniture, *in Trust*, for *John Spencer, jun.* Esq; his Executors and Administrators, provided he attain to the Age of Twenty-One, and if not, to his Father, and his Executors and Administrators. The next contains a Gift of Two Thousand Pounds each, to her four Executors, the Earl of *Marchmont*, the Bishop of *Oxford*, *Beversham Filmer*, Esq; and Dr. *James Stevens*, in Case they prove the Will, and take on them the Burthen and Execution thereof. The next is only a Clause, declaring valid all Legacies that should afterwards be bestow'd by her Grace on any one, either in Trust or otherwise, and should be either express'd in her Codicil, or any other Writing subicrib'd by her, and attested by two or more credible Witnesses.

THE following Paragraph is a Bequest of all the rest, Residue, and Remainder, of her Goods, Chattels, Stocks, Funds, Monies, Mortgagers and Securities for Mony, and all other her personal Estate whatever, or wherever, and of what

Nature, Kind, or Quality soever, not by her dispos'd of, (after and subject to the Payment of her Legacies, just Debts, and Funeral Charges) to her Executors before-mention'd; and a Direction to them, to call in and convert into Money, as soon as conveniently may be, all such Part of them as do not consist of Money, or Securities for Money; as likewise, that they call in all such as do consist thereof, and with all convenient Speed lay out and invest the same, in one or more Purchase or Purchases, of Freehold Mannors, Messuages, Lands, or Hereditaments, of an Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple, in some convenient Place or Places, within that Part of *Great Britain* call'd *England*, (with Liberty, nevertheless, to purchase likewise such Copyholds or Leaseholds, as lye convenient to be enjoy'd therewith,) and thereupon settle and convey all such Estates, &c. to the Use of her Grandson, the Hon. *John Spencer*, Esq; &c. upon the same Trusts and Conditions, and with the same Limitations as before-mention'd, or as near as may be, and the Deaths of Persons, and other Contingencies will admit.

THE next Clause impowers her said Grandson to make a Settlement of 300*l. per Ann.* in Addition to the Jointure of his present Spouse, the Lady *Georgina Carolina*: And the next impowers him, in Case the said Lady should dye, to make a Settlement of 1500*l. per Ann.* as a Jointure, on any future Wife. The two subsequent Paragraphs contain a Direction to her Executors, 'till her said personal Estate is so vested in Land, &c. to deposite any Money arising from thence in the Bank of *England*, for safe Custody,

alstody, as Occasion requires; and to place out again the said Moneys, at Interest, in parliamentary Securities, or in the Purchase of Stock, or Bank or South Sea Annuities; as also, in the mean while, 'till such Purchases of Lands can be made, to pay the yearly Interest arising thence, to such Person or Persons, as would have been intituled thereto if vested in Land. The two last Articles are no more than are usually inserted in all such Wills, for the Safety of Executors, &c. and only provided, that they shall not any of them be chargeable with any more, than each of them respectively receive, nor for any Loss which shall happen without their wilful Default, nor any one of them for the other or others, or for any more than his own Acts, Receipts, or Disbursements. As also, that it shall be lawful for them and their Executors, &c. in the first Place, to deduct and reimburse themselves, whatever Losses, Costs, Charges, and Expences, they shall sustain, expend, or be put to, on Account of the Trusts hereby vested in them, or the Management or Execution thereof, which is no more than is highly reasonable.

HAVING thus finished our Remarks on this extraordinary Will, which takes up no less than Eight Skins of Parchment, we shall proceed to make a few occasional Observations upon her Grace's Codicil, which alone takes up no less than Half that Number. After a declaratory Preamble as usual, and reciting that she is possess'd of several long Exchequer Annuities, which she bequeaths to her Executors before-mentioned upon *Trust*, her first Bequest is, of

300*l. per Annum*, part of the said unto Dr. *Stephens*, one of her said Executors, to be assign'd and transferr'd to him within 3 Calendar Months after her Decease, for his own absolute Use and Benefit, during all her Term and Interest therein. As the Duchess has also bequeath'd some other Legacies to this Gentleman, and is pleased herself to assign her Reason for so doing, we shall not take upon Us to assign any other. Her Grace's next Bequest is of the like Sum and out of the same Annuities, unto *Mrs. Grace Ridley*, who, we are inform'd, was her House-keeper; which also is devised unto her for her own absolute Use and Benefit, and during the same Term: The Duchess having also left her some other Legacies, we shall say nothing to this at present.

HER Grace is then pleased to bequeath, out of the same Annuities unto the Persons following, the several Sums hereafter recited, for so long of the Terms thereof as they the same Legatees shall live. Namely, To the Earl of *Clancarty*, the annual Sum of 1000*l.* To *Elizabeth Arbor*, whom we suppose one of her Head Servants, the Annual Sum of 200*l.* To *Anne Patten*, whom we believe to be another, the Yearly Sum of 130*l.* To *Oliver Lofft*, the Yearly Sum of 40*l.* To *John Griffiths*, another favourite Domestick, as we imagine, the annual Sum of 200*l.* To *Hannah Clark*, another Ditto, the like annual Sum. To *Jeremiah Lewis*, the Yearly Sum of 50*l.* To *John Dorset*, the like. To each of her Chairmen the yearly Sum of 20*l.* To *Walter Jones*, the annual Sum of 30*l.* And to each of her Footmen,

ntinued in her Service 'till her
, the yearly Sum of 10*l.* To *Margaret
Gaines*, and to *Catharine Ditto* the yearly Sum
of 10*l.* All these said Annuities are to be
paid to the several Legatees Quarterly, com-
mencing from the first Quarter after her Grace's
Decease. With her Grace's Munificence to
these her Servants, for such we suppose them
all, we believe no one will find any Fault, at
least, far be it from Us to make any Objection
thereto; and as to the handsome Legacy to the
Earl of *Chancarty*, we imagine it on the Score of
his being some way related to the Duchess.

HER Grace afterwards is pleas'd to direct,
that all the Residue of her said Annuities, as it
shall be receiv'd (after the Assignment of the
aforesaid Sums to Dr. *Stephens*, and *Grace Rid-
ley*, and Payment of the above yearly Sums,)
shall be paid to the Honourable *John Spencer*,
Esq; or whoever, by Virtue of her Will, is
entitled to the Rents and Profits of the Man-
nors to be purchas'd with her personal Estate.
Her next Bequest is also in Favour of the said
Grandson, of all her Gold and Silver Plate,
which she does not otherwise dispose of, as al-
so of all her Seals and Trinkets, and Small
Pieces of Japan, a Legacy which alone must
undoubtedly amount to a considerable Sum.
The following Bequest, is also in Behalf of
the same Favourite Grandson, and his Family,
being a Gift to the Wife of *John Spencer, jun.*,
Esq; Son to the said Grandson, if he lives to
be married, of her best Diamond Pendants,
which have three Drops to each, and all the
Rest of her Jewels, not otherwise dispos'd of;
and

and if he dies unmarried, the
his Father ; a Legacy which also, is
of a prodigious Value ! So that this
Branch of the Family seem to have engross'd
all her Grace's Liberality, in Prejudice of so
many others ; a Prepossession, at which the
World can never be sufficiently surpriz'd nor
griev'd !

THE next Legacy, indeed, is one Exception
to this almost general Rule, being a Bequest,
to her Grace's Granddaughter, *Mary*, Duchess
of *Leeds*, of her Diamond Solitaire, with the
large Brilliant to which it hangs ; as also of a
Picture in Water-Colours by *Lens*, of the late
Duke of *Marlborough* on Horseback, now in
Windsor-Lodge. Against this, undoubtedly, no
one will make any Objection, on the contrary,
every Body is sorry there are not any more
such, when there are so many others, who,
both on the Account of the Ties of Blood,
and their own personal Merit deserve it e-
qually.

THE very next Bequest, were there no other
than that alone, cou'd not fail of causing no
small Astonishment ; being a Gift to the nearest
Relation, her Grace had in the World, and her
only Daughter now living, *Mary* Duchess of
Montagu, a Lady of fine Sense and one of un-
common Beauty (though her Eyes may now
have lost some of their former Lustre) of only a
Gold Snuff-Box, wherein are 2 Pictures of her
illustrious Father, when a Youth, with another
Picture of the same, cover'd with a large Dia-
mond, and hung to a string of small Pearls for
a Bracelet, as also two enamell'd Pictures for a

Brace-

of her Sisters the Ladies *Sunderland* and *Bridgwater*. Now, bating the Pictures, which also, (were it not for the imaginary *Value* stampt thereon, by the Figure of the Persons they represent, and for whom her Grace has undoubtedly the greatest Regard) would be but mere Trifles, what is there in all this Legacy, as *artificially* and *pompously*, as it is set out with the Detail of the large Diamond, and String of small Pearls, which to a Person of her Grace's Rank and Fortune, is no more than the cutting her off therewith, (as is usual among meaner Persons with a Shilling) from her Share in the personal Estate, to which she must otherwise have been entitled ; unless, indeed, the Fortune given her in Marriage, though paid partly by the late Queen *Anne*, would have barr'd her from that Claim.

THE next is a handsome Legacy to the Duke of *Leeds*, who married her Granddaughter of 3000*l.* and the next to that of 1000*l.* to her Grace's Niece, the Lady *Dillon* ; against neither of which we are pretty sure, will any Objection be raised.

BUT as to the two which follow, we will not venture to assert the same Thing ; on the contrary, we believe, there will be as many who will censure it, as there are *Germanized Renegades*, *cringing Sycophants*, *mercenary Hirelings*, *infamous Timeservers*, or *scandalous and base Pick-thanks* ; nor is this any Wonder, since the *rewarding* and *distinguishing Worth* is no less than a *taut Upbraiding* them with *their Want* of it, and discovering a *Penetration* which, they are conscious, must *enable* every one, who is endued

dued therewith, to look through the *Soal*, and view in its genuine Blackness, the *British Heart* that lurks within them ; a Sight, they are well assur'd, must fill every honest Man, with the *utmost Horror* and *Detestation* of them.

To make Amends, however, for the *empty Censures* of this *formidable Body of Miscreants*, her Grace will be sure of the *hearty and undissembled Applause* of all the *True Britons* in the *Kingdom* ; which, we hope, notwithstanding the *abominable Corruption* that *reigns but too much, and too visibly*, amongst Us, is still the *greatest, though, we fear, not the richest Part* of the *Nation*. These two *so obnoxious Articles*, are a *Bequest* of *20,000 l.* and her best and largest *Diamond Brilliant Ring*, to the *Earl of Chesterfield*, in *Regard* to his *Worth*, and the *infinite Obligations* his *Lordship* had conferr'd upon her Grace, and also of *10,000 l.* to *William Pitt, Member of Parliament, Esq;* on *Account* of his *Merit*, in his *noble Defence* of the *Laws of England*, and *Zeal*, to *prevent the Ruin of his Country*.

THESE handsome Legacies are at once an *evident Proof* of her Grace's *excellent Sense*, and *unfeigned Love* to *Great Britain* ; and we much question, whether they will *reflect more Honour* upon the *Person who confers them*, or *those, who are to receive them* ; they are likewise an *undeniable Demonstration* of her *retaining her Public Spirit* to the *very last*. All we shall say farther, upon this Head, is, we heartily wish, these *illustrious Legatees* may ever keep this her Grace's *generous Example* before their Eyes, and may

copy after it, as not to confine their
only to Benevolence, and speaking it
in Behalf of the Publick, but exert it like-
wise in such Acts of Beneficence, as may shew
plainly they have its Welfare really at Heart,
and not through Indolence, or a yet worse Mo-
tive, leave Room to suspect their Zeal goes no
farther than empty Sound, and outward Profes-
sions.

HER Grace's Three next Bequests are
of 200*l.* to Mr. *Boroughs*, Master in Chan-
cery, for a Ring; of 500*l.* to each of her Exe-
cutors for the same Use? And of 1000*l.* be-
sides what she had before devised to the Earl
of *Clancarty*, upon which we shall not make a
ny Remark. And the next is, a Devise of
1000*l.* with the Interest thereof, due to her
Grace upon Bond from that *immortal Hero*, and
undaunted Patriot, the Earl of *Stair*, after his
Lordship's having paid the Countess his Lady,
what she had laid out, in purchase of some
Things for the Duchess when in *France*, the
Amount of which she had always declined let-
ting her Grace know: To which is added a
Direction for delivering up the said Bond to his
Lordship, as also, not to demand from him,
any Sum or Sums of Money, which the said
Earl, by any Memorandum's of the Duchess,
or Letters from himself, or any other ways,
may appear to have received from her. This
Devise, we dare say, will meet with *almost uni-
versal Approbation*? And all, we shall observe
thereon, is, we are sorry her Grace has *stinted*
her Munificence so deserving a Nobleman, to
such a Trifle.

As to the two following B.
of a Bag of Gold Medals, with 1000
or any other Token of Remembrance,
Countess of *Burlington*, and the other of her
Box of travelling Plate, to the Duchess of *De-
vonshire*, we see no Objection to be made there-
to. Neither do we think any can reasonably be
started, against the next Gift of 18,000*l.* to
Dr. *Stephens*, one of her Executors, in Consi-
deration of his faithful Services for many Years
past, and future Trouble in the Execution of
this Will, as her Grace is pleased expressly to
declare; nor yet after the Direction, for secur-
ing him his before mentioned Annuity for Life
of 300*l.* a Year clear of all Reductions; or,
to her farther Munificence of 15,000*l.* besides
1000*l.* due upon Bond, to *Grace Ridley* an
old Servant, with two Pictures of the late Duke,
and a Head of herself by *Kneller*, and a strik-
ing Watch, formerly his Grace's, as also a Le-
gacy of 3000*l.* to *Anne Ridley* Daughter to
the said *Grace*. We think it proper, however,
to observe, that the *censorious World* have thence
taken a Handle to insinuate, the former clearly
carried this Bounty by Services of a *very private
Nature*, and that the Merit of the Latter con-
sisted chiefly in her *keeping Counsel*, which *malici-
ous Suggestions* will have *no more Weight* which
Persons of any Candour or good Sense, than
the extravagant and spiteful Romances in the
Atalantis and others? In Effect, does not eve-
ry one see, had their Services been of a Kind
not proper to be divulged, it was in her Grace's
Power to have rewarded them as well, without a

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of its coming to the Knowledge of
Publick.

THE three next Devises are, of a striking
Watch, the late Countess of Sunderland's to
Mrs. Jane Pattison, formerly her Lordship's
Servant, of all her Grace's Cloaths, to Grace
Ridley, Anne Patten, and Olive Loft, one Half
to the said Grace, and the other between the
two Latter? As also, of 25*l.* each, to each
of her Chairmen, besides their Annuities of
20*l.* The next is, the Gift of a Year's Wages
to each of her Servants, not before remembred,
(except Stewards, Bailiffs, Gardiners, Park-
keepers and the like,) as also of Mourning,
to such of them as shall attend her Funeral:
After which is a Bequest of 300*l.* to the Poor
of Woodstock, which not being the 4000th Part
of what her Grace died worth, we cou'd wish,
for her Credit, had been somewhat larger. As
to the following, we cannot help thinking it
pretty odd, being only the Restitution of a
small Picture of the late Duke, formerly given
her Grace by Mrs. Godolphin, unto the Lady
from whom she received it.

FOR the subsequent Article the publick
and the Legatees are equally indebted to the
late Duchess, being of 500*l.* each to Mes.
Richard Glover, and *David Mallet*, for writing
Memoirs of the Life of the late Duke her Spouse,
from authentick Papers in her Grace's Custody,
(wherof they are to have the Use) as also of
the Benefit of Printing the same, after its be-
ing revised and approved of by the Earl of
Chesterfield, and her Executors. The next
Legacy is of 5000*l.* each, to the Ladies *Diana*
I and

and *Elizabeth Spencer*, and their
Lord Charles, in Case their elder Broth.
Marquis of Blandford attain to the Age of
during the Life of the present Duke of *Marlbo-rough*, and does not within five Years after do
or suffer, or agree to do or suffer any Act,
whereby any of the Conditions in the late Duke's
Will may be defeated or barred? As also in
Case the said *Lord Charles*, does not happen to
be the eldest Son, nor *forfeit* by any Act in the
like manner, the said Sum being then to be
paid them *without Interest*: Upon which we
cannot help observing, that as this is the *only*
Legacy to these the said Duke's younger Chil-
dren, and *trifling* as it is, is *clogg'd* with so ma-
ny Proviso's, (especially one so *cruel* and *un-
reasonable* as the making the Act of their elder
Brother *forfeit* the whole,) it looks as if *what-
ever* her Grace bequeath'd, to *that Branch* of
the *Spencer Family*; was given with a *Grudge*
and *Ill-will*.

T H E remaining Legacies are only of her
Grace's Interest, not already disposed of by
Will, in the several Estates hereafter to the
following Persons; Namely, of her real Estate
lying in or near *St. Albans*, and of her Lease-
hold Estate in *Romney-Marsh*, to *Thomas Duke*
of *Leeds*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever; Of
her Manor of *Wimbledon*, with all her Free-
hold and Leasehold Estates there, and also the
Manor, Lands and Hereditaments in the Coun-
ty of *Northampton*, late the Estate of *Sir Wil-
liam Harwick Bart.*; and also to her Manor,
Lands, &c. in the County of *Surry* late the E-
state of *Richard Holditch Esq*; together with
the

furniture of *Wimbledon House*, in Case it comes into his Possession, to the Earl of *Chesterfield*, his Heirs and Assigns; of her Manor, Messuage, Lands, &c. in the County of *Bucks*, late the Estate of *Robert Knight*, Esq; to the Earl of *Clancarty*, his Heirs, &c. of her Manors, Advowsons, Messuages, Lands, &c. in the County of *Bucks*, late the Estate of *Richard Hampden*, Esq; and also of her Manors, Advowsons, Lands, &c. in the County of *Stafford*, late the Estate of the Lord *Fauconberg*; and of her Manor, Advowsons, Park, Lands, &c. in the County of *Northampton*, some Time the Estate of the Lord *Crew*, Bishop of *Durham*, to *William Pitt*, Esq; his Heirs, &c. of her Manor, Lands, &c. in the County of *Oxford*, late the Estate of Sir *Cecil Bishop*, Bart. together with the Furniture of the Mansion-House, to her Godson, - - - *Bishop*, Esq; Son to the said Sir *Cecil Bishop*, his Heirs, &c. Of her Manor, Rectory, Advowson, Capital Messuage, Messuages, Lands, &c. in the County of *Bucks*, late the Estate of Sir *John Wittewrong* Bart. and also to her Manor, reputed Mannor, Freehold, Messuages, Lands, &c. in the same County, late the Estate of Sir *Thomas Tyrrel*, Bart. together with the Leasehold Estates therewith enjoy'd for the Residue of her Grace's Term therein to the Earl of *Marchmont*, his Heirs, &c. Of her Mannor, Capital Messuages, and Freehold and Copyhold Messuages, Lands, &c. in the County of *Bedford*, late the Estate of Sir *John Meres*, Kt. to *Thomas Lord Bishop of Oxford*, his Heirs, &c. Of her Mannor, Messuages, Lands, &c. in the Counties of *Leicester* and *Northampton*,

late the Estate of Sir *Thomas Cave*, Dame *Elizabeth* his Wife, to *Beversham*, Esq; his Heirs, &c. As also, of her Ma-
messuages, Advowsons, Farms, Lands, &c. in the County of *Berks*, late the Estate of *Robert Packer*, Esq; and of her Manor, Messuages, Lands, &c. in the same County, late the Estate of *Richard Jones*, Esq; and *William Jones* his Son, or one of them; and of her Mes-
suage, Lands, &c. in the same County, late the Estate of *Thomas Bedford*, Clerk, and *Tem-
perance Bedford*, his Mother, or one of them, and likewise of her Manor, Messuages, Lands, &c. in the County of *Huntingdon*, late the Estate of *William Astel*, Esq; to Dr. *James Ste-
phens*, his Heirs, and Assigns for ever.

UPON all which Legacies we shall only ob-
serve, that, as they are only bequeath'd to these several Persons, in Case the Honourable *John Spencer*, Esq; dies without Issue Male or Female, and as he has already some of both Sorts, it is Forty to One whether any of them ever derive any Benefit from thence; and that these Devises seem only to have been made, to render it impossible any of the said Estates should ever come to the Duke of *Marlborough*, or any of his Children. Her Grace's last Be-
quest is to the said Favourite Grandson, his Heirs, &c. of all her Interest undispos'd of by *Will* in her several Estates in the Counties of *Norfolk*, *Bedford*, *Oxford*, and *Northampton*, as also, in all others, not by this Codicil other-
wise devised, and likewise in all the Estates to be purchas'd by the Residue of her personal Estate. *Tantæ molis erat Romanam condere Gentem?*

But

must not bid adieu to this remarkable Will and Codicil, without taking Notice of a Particular, which we think as *unaccountable* as any Thing which has gone before; it is, that the Name of *Sandwich* should be at the Head of the Subscribing Witnesses to the Codicil, when, for aught appears to the contrary, his Lordship, though almost equally near to her Grace as Mr. *Spencer*, and though a Nobleman of as great Hopes as any one, does not derive even the smallest Benefit, no, not so much as a Ring, from all her immense Riches: This of itself is very hard, and mortifying; but, if, at the Time of subscribing, his Lordship had any Hopes given him, that he was remember'd therein, to his Advantage, it was such a particular Aggravation as we want a Name for; we hope, however, to the contrary, and that the only Reason, we don't put his Lordship amongst the Legatees, is, because her Grace gave him with her own Hand, before her Decease, some handsome Token of her Esteem for him. Be this as it will, we will venture to affirm, of this illustrious Lady, that, if she had *her Failings*, (as what Woman was ever without) she had several *singular Virtues*, to *counter-ballance* them, which is more than can be said of many Men; and that, were it only for her *publick Spirit* and *Love of her Country*, they alone, in our Opinion, as is said of *Charity*, would cover a *Multitude of Faults*; and, notwithstanding all the *Calumnies*, wherewith she has been *industriously blacken'd*, by her *inveterate Enemies*, to any one, who is *desirous* of being remember'd to his Honour, after his Decease, we would give it as our Advice, in the Words of

our

our Saviour, *Go thou and do likewise.*
it likewise proper to add, with regard to
Grace's immense Fortune, that it is not to be
supposed it was near so considerable, at the Death
of the late Duke, as at present, but that, hav-
ing been every Year since an increasing Estate,
and she not having neglected any Opportunity
to improve it, must have made an Addition to
it of more than one third Part; as also, that,
immense as it is, it was acquired with *Danger*
and *Honour*, in *Defence* of our *Liberties*; and
that never was the *Glory* of *Great Britain* carried
to a *higher Pitch*, than whilst her *illustrious*
Spouse was at Head of our Armies. We hope,
therefore, whatever Acquisitions his Family has
so honourably made, will never be *grudged them*,
when we consider they were mostly gained by
the *Plunder* of our *Enemies*, not by that of his
Country; and, that we have since seen a *larger*
Estate acquired, (with a *House*, and *Gardens*, e-
very way *superiour* to *Blenheim*,) by a Man, the
whole uniform Tenor, of whose *long, weak, and*
infamous Administration, was, to *undo* what the
Duke of *Marlborough* had *done*; to *pull down* the
Austrian Family and *aggrandize* that of *Bourbon*,
equally at the *Expence* of the *Interest, Honour*
and *Safety* of these *Realms*: Of a Man, in short,
who has *fatten'd* upon the *Spoils* of an *injur'd*
Nation, in Proportion as we have been *impove-
verish'd*; and who having *raised* his *own Family*
upon the *Ruins* of the *Publick*, is *suffer'd* to live
quietly, in the *Enjoyment* of his *Ropine*, to the
Scandal, and in *Defiance* of *National Justice*, and
laughs at all our *fruitless Efforts*, to bring him
to *condign Punishment*.

